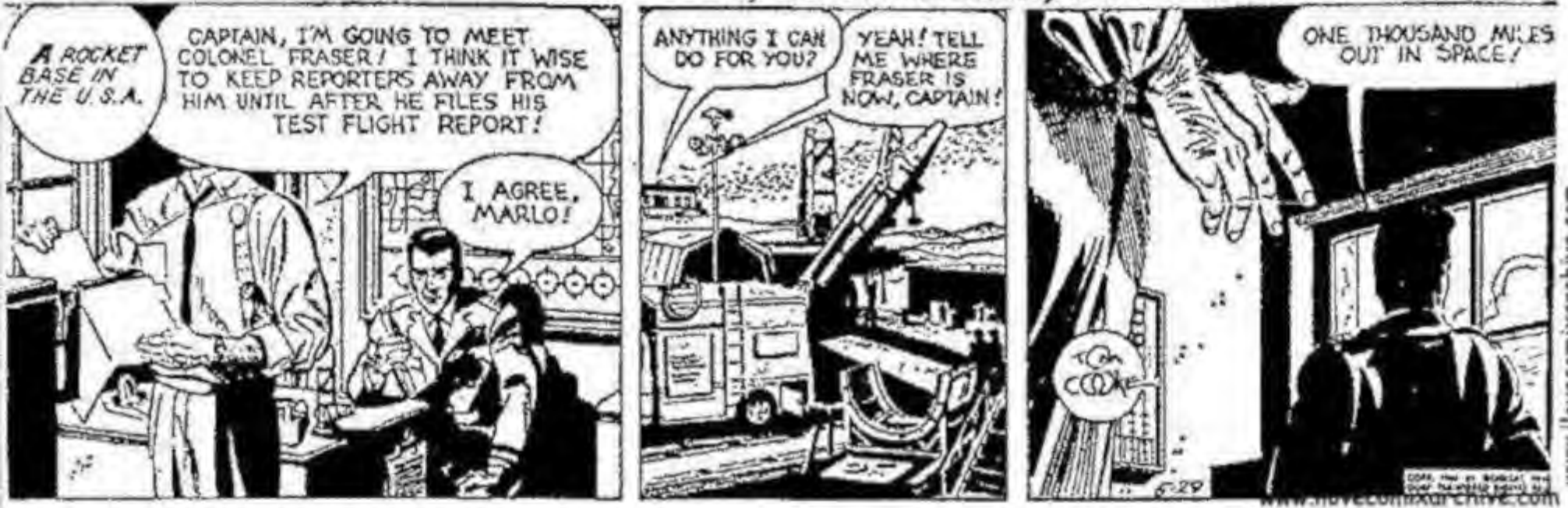
DRIFT MARLO

By Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke And Phil Evans


A ROCKET BASE IN THE U.S.A.
CAPTAIN, I'M GOING TO MEET COLONEL FRASER! I THINK IT WISE TO KEEP REPORTERS AWAY FROM HIM UNTIL AFTER HE FILES HIS TEST FLIGHT REPORT!
I AGREE, MARLO!
ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?
YEAH! TELL ME WHERE FRASER IS NOW, CAPTAIN!
ONE THOUSAND MILES OUT IN SPACE!
TOM COOKE

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DRIFT MARLO

By Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke And Phil Evans

HMM, COLONEL FRASER RE-ENTERS EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE IN THREE HOURS! THAT MEANS MY PLANS FOR TONIGHT, ARE OFF!
WOOO-EEE WHO'S THAT?
FLICK OFF YOUR RADAR, DEARIE! THAT'S DRIFT MARLO THE SECURITY SHAMUS! HE THINKS CLAIRE FOSTER'S THE ONLY CELESTIAL BODY ON THE HORIZON!
CLAIRE, ABOUT OUR DATE FOR TONIGHT....!
DON'T TELL ME, LET ME GUESS-- IT'S OFF! ONLY YOU COULD GET AWAY WITH THIS DRIFT!

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DRIFT MARLO

By Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke And Phil Evans

I KNOW YOUR DUTIES AS A SECURITY OFFICER ARE CONFINING, DRIFT BUT THIS CONSTANTLY STANDING ME UP ON DATES IS POSITIVELY EXASPERATING!
MISS FOSTER...!
YES, DR. BARCUS!
IF THAT'S MY HANDSOME FRIEND MARLO OUT THERE, SEND HIM IN HERE!
I'M GLAD SOMEBODY AROUND HERE APPRECIATES ME! SEE YOU LATER BEAUTIFUL!
COOKE

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DRIFT MARLO

by Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke and Phil Evans

GLAD YOU DROPPED IN, DRIFT. I'VE GOT SOMETHING ON MY MIND!
I CAN ONLY STAY A MINUTE, DOC! I'M GOING TO BE WITH THE RECOVERY CREW WHEN COLONEL FRASER LANDS!
THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO TALK ABOUT! I'M CONFIDENT MY NEW DESIGN OF THIS MANNED RE-ENTRY CHAMBER WILL WORK AS A SATELLITE-TO-EARTH VEHICLE, BUT---!
..I'M WORRIED--- I'M WORRIED ABOUT FRASER--- THE MAN INSIDE IT!
COOKE

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DRIFT MARLO

by Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke and Phil Evans

ANDY FRASER'S A FINE ASTRONAUT DOC! WHAT ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT?
HE HAD A VIOLENT ARGUMENT WITH HIS WIFE JUST BEFORE HIS TEST FLIGHT! SUCH AN EMOTIONAL UPHEAVAL COULD IMPAIR HIS EFFICIENCY--- AND EVEN JEOPARDIZE OUR ENTIRE SPACE STATION PROGRAM!
"HAD I KNOWN WHAT HAPPENED, THE ROCKET FIRING WOULD HAVE BEEN POSTPONED!"
MY MIND'S MADE UP, ANDREW! I REFUSE TO GIVE YOU YOUR FREEDOM!
OKAY, MARY, IF THAT'S YOUR FINAL DECISION, DON'T EXPECT TO SEE ME AGAIN--- EVER! THIS IS GOOD-BYE!

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DRIFT MARLO

by Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke and Phil Evans

YOU'VE GOT TO LEAVE THE LAUNCHING AREA, MRS. FRASER! IT'S DANGEROUS!
NO! DON'T LET M/ HUSBAND GO! HE SAID HE'D NEVER SEE ME AGAIN--- AND HE MEANT IT! PLEASE STOP HIM!
OH, ANDREW, WHY DO WE QUARREL SO? AND NOW IT'S TOO LATE TO SAY --- I'M SORRY!
THREE ... TWO ... ONE ... ZERO!

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DRIFT MARLO

by Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke and Phil Evans

THE MANNED ROCKET, POWERED BY OUR LATEST SUPER-THRUST ENGINES LIFTED OFF THE FIRING PAD IN A PERFECT LAUNCHING!
COOK
BUT IT'S THE ASTRONAUT, COLONEL FRASER, I'M WORRIED ABOUT. DRIFT. I WISH HIS LAST ARGUMENT WITH HIS WIFE HADN'T CLIMAXED IN A THREAT NEVER TO SEE HER AGAIN!
HE'D HAVE SHOWN SIGNS OF STRAIN BEFORE NOW IF HIS SQUABBLES MEANT ANYTHING, DOC!
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT! HE MUST PROVE MAN CAN SAFELY RETURN FROM ORBIT BEFORE WE START ASSEMBLING A SPACE STATION!

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DRIFT MARLO

by Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke and Phil Evans

I JUST RECEIVED A CALL THAT THE RECOVERY CREW IS WAITING!
I'LL MEET YOU AT THE SHIP, DRIFT!
NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY I HAD TO CANCEL OUR DATE FOR TONIGHT DRIFT, YOU'RE FORGIVEN!
CHIN UP BEAUTIFUL! WE'LL GET TOGETHER AFTER I BRING COLONEL FRASER TO HEADQUARTERS TO MAKE HIS SECRET FLIGHT REPORT!
DRIFT! I MUST TALK TO YOU!
MARY FRASER! CAN'T IT WAIT, HONEY? I'M IN A BIG RUSH!

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DRIFT MARLO

by Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke and Phil Evans

PLEASE TAKE ME WITH YOU, DRIFT! LOOK, I'VE GOT CLEARANCE TO BE WITH YOU AND THE RECOVERY TEAMS WHEN MY HUSBAND IS PICKED UP!
IT'S OKAY WITH ME, MARY, BUT ANDY MAY NOT BE IN THE MOOD FOR A SECOND ROUND!
HONESTLY, I STILL LOVE HIM-- THAT'S WHY I REFUSED TO GIVE HIM HIS FREEDOM! OF COURSE WE HAVE MISUNDERSTANDINGS BUT WHAT MARRIED COUPLE DOESN'T?
COOKE
MAYBE I DON'T KNOW AS MUCH ABOUT SPACE AS DR BARCUS, BUT I DO KNOW WHAT MAKES PEOPLE TICK, MARY! YOU AND ANDY ARE OKAY-- I'M RULING FOR YOU BOTH!

DRIFT MARLO

by Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke and Phil Evans

FRASER'S ORBITING ROCKET HAS BEEN PICKED UP ON RADAR IN HAWAII, DRIFT! HE'LL BE ABANDONING IT FOR RE-ENTRY WITH THE CAPSULE SOON!
HAVE THEY CONTACTED MY HUSBAND? IS HE ALL RIGHT?
OFF
ST GUARD

MEANWHILE, AS THE ROCKET FLASHES ACROSS THE HEAVENS—
HELLO, COLONEL FRASER, THIS IS ROCKET BASE. ALL AIR AND SEA UNITS ARE CONVERGING ON TOUCHDOWN POINT! DO YOU READ ME? COME IN, FRASER!

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DRIFT MARLO

by Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke and Phil Evans

COLONEL FRASER TO BASE! SPEED 17,028 MILES PER HOUR! NEARING PERIGEE OF ORBIT! PREPARING TO SEPARATE FROM ROCKET FOR RE-ENTRY! CODE 8,6,3,2!
COOKE
REPEAT: CODE 8,6,3,2!
THAT'S STRANGE! I WONDER WHAT THOSE CODE NUMBERS MEAN? BUT WHATEVER THEY ARE, MY FRIENDS, FRASER IS APPROACHING THE MOMENT OF TRUTH!
6-9
"AFTER SEPARATING FROM THE ROCKET, HE MUST USE THE CAPSULE'S RETROROCKETS TO SLOW HIS SPEED TO 750 MILES AN HOUR--OR HE'LL BURN UP WHEN HE HITS EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE!

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DRIFT MARLO

by Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke and Phil Evans

WHAT'S THE SCOOP NOW, DOC?
THIS IS THE MOST CRITICAL POINT--ABSORBING THOUSANDS OF DEGREES FAHRENHEIT ON THE BERYLLIUM HEAT SHIELD, WHILE THE PILOT GOES FROM WEIGHTLESSNESS TO HIGH G'S!
I'M PRAYING FOR YOU, ANDREW! PLEASE COME BACK SAFELY! I'LL NEVER FAIL YOU AGAIN... I PROMISE!
MILES ABOVE, THE RE-ENTRY CAPSULE SCREAMS DOWN INTO THE INFERNO OF THE ATMOSPHERE, AS FRICTION STARTS TO VAPORIZE THE HEAT SHIELD

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DRIFT MARLO

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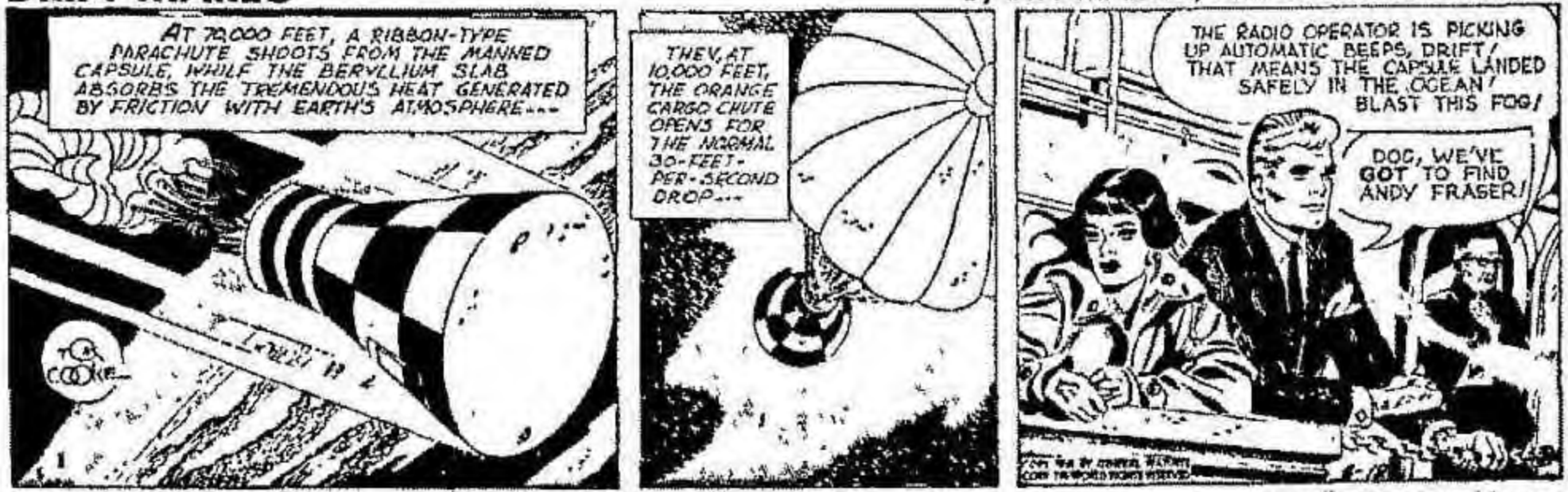
AT 70,000 FEET, A RIBBON-TYPE PARACHUTE SHOOTS FROM THE MANNED CAPSULE, WHILE THE BERYLLIUM SLAB ABSORBS THE TREMENDOUS HEAT GENERATED BY FRICTION WITH EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE---
TOM COOKE
1
THEN, AT 10,000 FEET, THE ORANGE CARGO CHUTE OPENS FOR THE NORMAL 30-FEET-PER-SECOND DROP---
THE RADIO OPERATOR IS PICKING UP AUTOMATIC BEEPS, DRIFT! THAT MEANS THE CAPSULE LANDED SAFELY IN THE OCEAN! BLAST THIS FOG!
DOC, WE'VE GOT TO FIND ANDY FRASER!

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DRIFT MARLO

By Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke And Phil Evans

COLONEL FRASER LANDED IN THIS AREA, DRIFT! WE HAVE A FIX ON THE CAPSULE'S AUTOMATIC RADIO SIGNALS!
DON'T WORRY, DOC, WE'LL FIND HIM! ALL AIR AND SEA UNITS ARE FANNING OUT, AND THE FOG IS LIFTING!

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DRIFT MARLO

By TOM COOKE

COOKE
AHOY! SOMETHING .. WITH A FLASHING BEACON IS BOBBING ON THE WATER SOUTH OF HERE! ARE YOU LOOKING FOR IT?
YEAH-YEAH! THANKS, LADY!
SHE SPOTTED FRASER'S CAPSULE, DOC! YOU BETTER NOTIFY THE CAPTAIN AT ONCE..
.. I'LL STAY HERE AND ADMIRE THAT LITTLE CRUISER! BEAUTIFUL LINES! SHE'S WHAT I'D CALL A REAL SHIP-SHAPE DOLL, I MEAN CRAFT!

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DRIFT MARLO

By Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke And Phil Evans

I HAD SPARKS RADIO ALL UNITS THAT WE FOUND THE CAPSULE, DOC! THE SEARCH CAN NOW BE CALLED OFF!..HAPPY, MRS. FRASER?
YES, DRIFT! BUT WHY DID ANDREW HAVE TO GO A THOUSAND MILES INTO SPACE TO MAKE ME SUDDENLY REALIZE ALL THE MISTAKES I'VE MADE WITH OUR LIVES!

I WONDER HOW MUCH INSULATION WAS LOST DURING RE-ENTRY? I'LL BET COLONEL FRASER WILL WELCOME A COOL OCEAN BREEZE ABOUT NOW!
I HOPE HE'S IN CONDITION TO ENJOY IT!

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DRIFT MARLO

By Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke And Phil Evans

HURRY WITH THAT HATCH, SAILOR! I'VE GOT TO GET COLONEL FRASER BACK TO THE ROCKET BASE TO MAKE HIS REPORT!
AYE, SIR!
I WANT TO CHECK FRASER'S CONDITION IMMEDIATELY, DRIFT! AS SOON AS WE ARE CONVINCED MAN MAY SAFELY COMMUTE BETWEEN SATELLITES AND EARTH WITH NO ILL EFFECTS, WE CAN LAUNCH THE STATION COMPONENTS INTO ORBIT!
HEY, THE CAPSULE'S EMPTY!

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DRIFT MARLO

By Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke And Phil Evans

DOC!... COLONEL FRASER'S NOT IN THE CAPSULE!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! MY HUSBAND COULDN'T JUST DISAPPEAR IN SPACE!
SHE'S RIGHT, DRIFT! THE BASE HAD RADIO CONTACT WITH FRASER DURING HIS RE-ENTRY! BESIDES, HIS DESCENT WAS UNDER AUTOMATIC AND MANUAL CONTROL AT ALL TIMES, OTHERWISE THE VEHICLE COULD HAVE BURNED UP!
LOOK-- ASHES!

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DRIFT MARLO

By Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke And Phil Evans

ABOARD A RECOVERY VESSEL...
MRS. FRASER'S ALL SHOOK UP FROM FINDING HER HUSBAND'S "ASHES" IN THAT SPACE CAPSULE, DOC!
HER SUSPICIONS COME FROM A GUILT COMPLEX, DRIFT! I'LL ANALYZE THESE ASHES AT THE ROCKET BASE!
TOM COOKE
YOU CAN'T BLAME MARY! SHE THINKS THE HEAT FROM RE-ENTRY FRICTION CREMATED COLONEL FRASER!
UTTER NONSENSE! IF THAT WAS TRUE, EVERYTHING INSIDE THE CAPSULE WOULD HAVE BURNED UP!
LOOKS LIKE FINDING FRASER IS MY JOB!
6-12

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DRIFT MARLO

By Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke And Phil Evans

THESE ASHES FROM COLONEL FRASER'S CONTOUR LOUNGE ARE NOT THE REMAINS OF A HUMAN, DRIFT!
THAT'S WHAT I FIGURED, DOC!
WHILE YOUR STAFF MAKES WITH THE ELECTRONIC COMPUTERS TO FIND OUT HOW FRASER DISAPPEARED, I'LL TRY TO LOCATE HIM MY OWN WAY!
COOKE
YOU HAVE A LEAD?
YOU GAVE ME ONE WHILE HE WAS ORBITING IN SPACE! I THINK YOU CALLED IT-- DOMESTIC TROUBLES!

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DRIFT MARLO

By Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke And Phil Evans

REPORTERS OUTSIDE ARE HOUNDING ME FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE TEST FLIGHT, DR BARCUS! YOU'VE GOT TO EXPLAIN TO ME HOW COLONEL FRASER DISAPPEARED!
I CAN'T--UNTIL DRIFT MARLO FINDS THE ANSWER, CAPTAIN!
TOM COOKE
22

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DRIFT MARLO

By Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke And Phil Evans

MARY FRASER'S HOME...
OH, ANDREW, WHY DID YOU DO IT? WAS LIFE WITH ME SO UNBEARABLE? DID YOU HAVE TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT SPACE CAPSULE WOULDN'T BRING YOU BACK ALIVE?
COOKE
OH-H-H-!
UM-M, PLEASE DON'T BE ALARMED, MRS. FRASER!
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

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DRIFT MARLO

By Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke And Phil Evans

UMM, YOU WON'T NEED THAT LETTER OPENER, MRS FRASER-- I'M NOT A THIEF! I'M HUMBOLT, MAGAZINE WRITER! YOUR REFUSAL TO LET REPORTERS IN MADE ME EVEN MORE DETERMINED TO SEE YOU!
OF ALL THE NERVE!
THE ROCKET BASE WON'T RELEASE INFORMATION ON THAT SPACE CAPSULE THEY RECOVERED! UMM, I FOUND OUT YOUR HUSBAND DISAPPEARED DURING THE TEST FLIGHT!
TOM COOKE
6-23
WHAT HAPPENED, MRS. FRASER? WHAT DO THE SLIDE-RULE BOYS SAY? DID HE PUSH THE WRONG BUTTON-- ON PURPOSE? UMM, DID HE?
GET OUT OF MY HOUSE! OUT!
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DRIFT MARLO

By Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke And Phil Evans

YOU HEARD ME, LEAVE THIS HOUSE... NOW!
UMM, I JUST WANTED TO GET A STORY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR LATE HUSBAND, MRS. FRASER!
OKAY, OKAY, I'LL GO!
WHILE OUTSIDE...
HMM, MARY HAS COMPANY! I HOPE THAT CAR DOESN'T BELONG TO A REPORTER!
6-24
MY MISTAKE! WORKING REPORTERS DON'T USUALLY SPORT FANCY YACHTING CAPS WITH...!
TOM COOKE
DROP IT, MISTER!

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DRIFT MARLO

By Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke And Phil Evans

THAT'S MY CAP, MISTER! I LEFT IT ON THE CAR SEAT!
TAKE IT EASY, CHUM! I'M JUST CHECKING ON MRS. FRASER'S VISITORS! I'M DRIFT MARLO, SECURITY, OFFICER FROM THE ROCKET BASE!
6-26
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A NEWSMAN TILL I SAW YOUR LID! YOU A FRIEND OF MARY'S?
UMM, YES, YOU MIGHT CALL ME THAT! EXCUSE ME, I'LL BE ON MY WAY!
T. COOKE
DRIFT, HE KNOWS ALL ABOUT ANDREW'S TEST FLIGHT! HE'S A REPORTER!

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DRIFT MARLO

By Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke And Phil Evans

YOUR PAPERS LOOK OKAY, HUMBOLT! I SEE YOU HAVE A 30-FOOT CRUISER REGISTERED IN YOUR NAME! WHERE IS IT?
AT MY BEACH PLACE! ANY LAW AGAINST THAT?
HE ENTERED MY HOME UNINVITED, DRIFT! HE WAS VERY RUDE AND TRIED TO QUESTION ME ABOUT MY HUSBAND'S DISAPPEARANCE IN SPACE!
I'D LIKE TO SEE YOUR CREDENTIALS, MISTER!
I'M NOT REALLY A REPORTER, MR. MARLO--JUST A FREE LANCE MAGAZINE WRITER!
6-27

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DRIFT MARLO

By Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke And Phil Evans

YOU'RE NOT SNOOPING AROUND FOR A STORY, CHUM!
YOU CAN'T ARREST ME FOR TRYING TO INTERVIEW A DEAD PILOT'S WIDOW FOR A STORY, MARLO!

I SAW THOSE SAME NUMBERS ON A CRUISER PILOTED BY A GAL! SHE WAS IN THE TARGET AREA WHERE COLONEL FRASER WAS TO BRING DOWN HIS SPACE CAPSULE!"
COOKE

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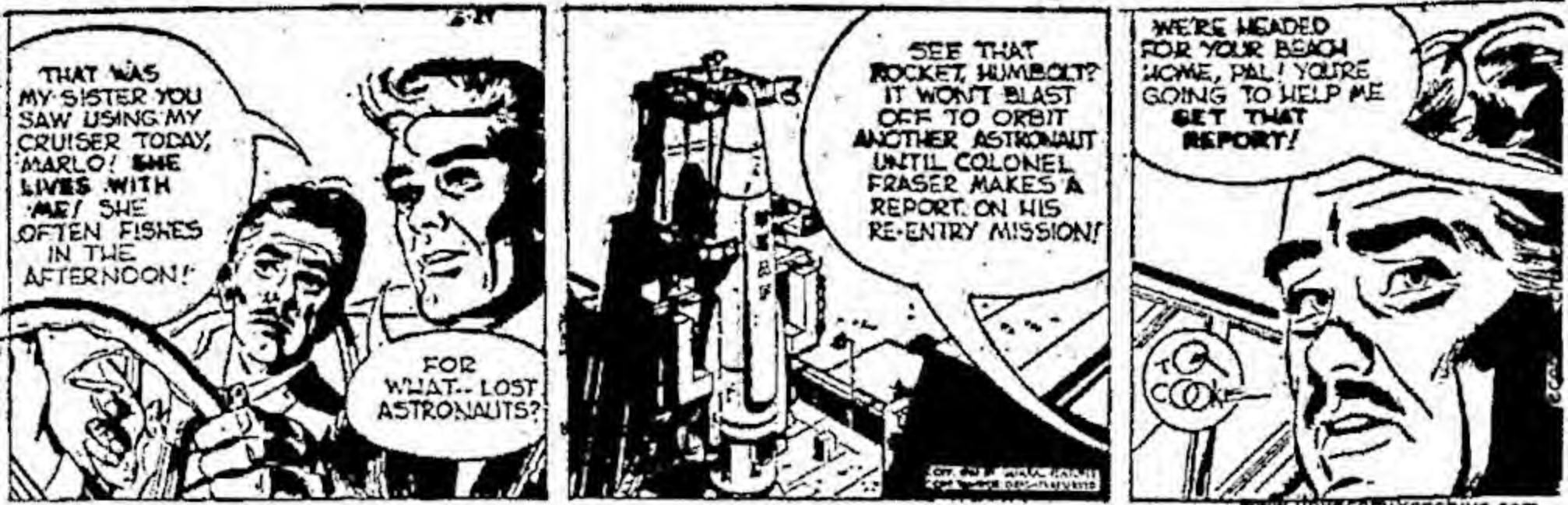
DRIFT MARLO

By Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke And Phil Evans


THAT WAS MY SISTER YOU SAW USING MY CRUISER TODAY, MARLO! SHE LIVES WITH ME! SHE OFTEN FISHES IN THE AFTERNOON!
FOR WHAT-- LOST ASTRONAUTS?
SEE THAT ROCKET, HUMBOLT? IT WON'T BLAST OFF TO ORBIT ANOTHER ASTRONAUT UNTIL COLONEL FRASER MAKES A REPORT ON HIS RE-ENTRY MISSION!
WE'RE HEADED FOR YOUR BEACH HOME, PAL! YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME GET THAT REPORT!
TOM COOKE

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DRIFT MARLO

By Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke And Phil Evans

THAT'S MY BEACH HOME, MR. MARLO! BUT YOU'RE DEAD WRONG IF YOU THINK MY SISTER KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT COLONEL FRASER!
DON'T CON ME, LUMBOLT! YOUR SISTER DISCOVERED FRASER'S SPACE CAPSULE FIRST! SHE MADE SURE WE'D FIND IT—EMPTY!
SLAM!

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DRIFT MARLO

by Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke and Phil Evans

MY SISTER COBINA WILL BE FURIOUS WITH ME FOR BRINGING YOU HERE, MARLO! SHE DETESTS SNOOPERS!
GOOD! I DON'T LIKE HER EITHER.. AND I HAVEN'T MET HER YET!
I'VE A HUNCH SHE CAN TELL ME WHY COLONEL FRASER WASN'T INSIDE HIS SPACE CAPSULE WHEN IT WAS RECOVERED!
T C COOKE

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DRIFT MARLO

by Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke and Phil Evans

THE HUMBOLT BEACH HOUSE..
ANDY, WAKE UP! SOMEONE FROM THE ROCKET BASE IS HERE!
7-3
RELAX, DARLING! YOU'RE EXHAUSTED FROM THAT FOOLISH SPACE FLIGHT! I'LL GET RID OF THE BUSYBODY!
7-3
I'LL GET MY SISTER, MARLO! SHE'LL TELL YOU HERSELF SHE KNOWS NOTHING OF FRASER'S DISAPPEARANCE!
LOOKS LIKE SHE LEFT THE ROOM IN A BIG HURRY!

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DRIFT MARLO

by Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke and Phil Evans

BACK SO SOON, BROTHER DEAR? WHO'S YOUR GOOD-LOOKING FRIEND?
DRIFT MARLO, SECURITY MAN AT THE ROCKET BASE! ... WE MET AT MARY FRASER'S...!
YEAH, HE WAS SNOOPING AROUND TO FIND OUT IF THE BRASS FELL FOR THAT BIT ABOUT FRASER GOING "POOF" DURING RE-ENTRY! YOUR HOAX DIDN'T WORK, LADY! BROTHER DEAR SPILLED EVERYTHING!
B-BUT, SIS, I TOLD HIM NOTHING! MARLO TRICKED YOU!
YOU JELLYFISH! I SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO ASK YOU TO HELP!

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DRIFT MARLO

by Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke and Phil Evans

LISTEN, BEAUTIFUL, FRASER'S BEEN UNDER TERRIFIC STRAIN! HE MAY BE ALL MIXED UP BUT NOT ENOUGH TO WALK OUT ON A VITAL JOB AND HIS WIFE! BESIDES MARY STILL LOVES HIM---I KNOW!
IN ANY EVENT, I'M BRINGING FRASER BACK TO THE BASE! IS HE IN THIS ROOM?
HAROLD! STOP H'M!
T-6
SCRAM, CHUM!

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DRIFT MARLO

by Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke and Phil Evans

ANDY'S GONE! HE HEARD YOU AND PANICKED MARLO!
FRASER'S NOT THE TYPE TO PANIC, BABY! I THINK I KNOW WHERE HE'S HEADED, AND I'M GOING AFTER HIM!

MEANWHILE...
ANDY AND I LOVE EACH OTHER! NOBODY IS GOING TO STOP US FROM RUNNING AWAY TOGETHER!
MARY STILL LOVES HIM -- I KNOW!
COOKE
7-7

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DRIFT MARLO

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DR. BARCUS, HAVE THEY FOUND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO ANDREW YET? I JUST CAN'T STAND THIS --THIS UNCERTAINTY!
AT THE ROCKET BASE...
DRIFT MARLO'S WORKING ON IT, MRS FRASER! IF ANYONE CAN FIND YOUR HUSBAND, DRIFT'S THAT PERSON!
COKE

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DRIFT MARLO

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GOOD WORK, DRIFT! I KNEW YOU'D BRING COLONEL FRASER BACK TO THE BASE! HOW IN BLAZES DID YOU FIND HIM?
A LITTLE DETECTIVE WORK AND LOTS OF LUCK, DOC! COME ON, LET'S LEAVE HIM ALONE WITH HIS WIFE!
I'VE BEEN A FIRST CLASS FOOL, MARY! CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME?
YOU'RE BACK HOME AND YOU'RE SAFE DARLING-- THAT'S ALL I CARE ABOUT!
T-10

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DRIFT MARLO

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I'M TO BLAME, ANDREW! I KNOW I'VE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO LIVE WITH LATELY!
BUT MAYBE I WAS ABOUT TO CHUCK EVERYTHING FOR THAT GIRL! YOU, THE PROJECT, THE WHOLE WORKS! I MUST HAVE BEEN NUTS!
BUT YOU DIDN'T GO THROUGH WITH IT, THAT'S THE IMPORTANT THING!
TOM COOKE
I'VE GOT TO FILE MY TEST FLIGHT REPORT! I JUST HOPE MY SUPERIORS ARE AS UNDERSTANDING AS YOU!

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DRIFT MARLO

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DRIFT, THANKS FOR BIRD-DOGGING ME TO COBINA'S BEACH HOUSE! YOUR ARRIVAL BROUGHT ME TO MY SENSES AND GAVE ME A WAY OUT OF A POTENTIAL MESS!
FORGET IT, ANDY! I'LL SEE YOU AFTER DOC GIVES YOU YOUR CHECKUP!
BASE HOSPITAL
MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE LECTURED HIM, BUT WHO AM I TO THROW STONES? THERE'S PLENTY OF GLASS IN MY HOUSE!

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DRIFT MARLO

by Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke and Phil Evans

COLONEL FRASER FILED HIS TEST FLIGHT REPORT, MARLO--- THANKS TO YOU!
HOW'D IT CHECK OUT CAPTAIN?
EXCELLENT! THE ORBITAL FLIGHT AND RE-ENTRY WERE SUCCESSFUL! OF COURSE, WE'LL HAVE TO DISCIPLINE FRASER FOR---!
TOM COOKE
LISTEN!.... DID IT EVER OCCUR TO THE BRASS THAT ASTRONAUTS AREN'T ROBOTS? THEY'RE MADE OUT OF FLESH AND BLOOD! THEY'RE HUMAN!
I'LL BUY THAT, DRIFT! NOW BLAST OFF!

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INCIDENTALLY, CAPTAIN, COBINA HUMBOLT AND HER BROTHER ARE IN CUSTODY, WAITING FOR A HEARING!
GOOD! THAT SHOULD ABOUT WRAP UP THE CASE, MARLO!
I HOPE SO!... WELL, (YAWN) I'M GOING HOME FOR SOME MUCH-NEEDED SHUT-EYE!
DRIFT MARLO, DID YOU FORGET THAT DATE WE HAD FOR TONIGHT?
SCREEE

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DRIFT MARLO

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I'M BUSHED CLAIRE! I'LL BE ROTTEN COMPANY ON A DATE!
NO EXCUSES, DRIFT! I'LL WAIT FOR YOU TO SHOWER AND SHAVE! YOU'VE EARNED A NIGHT ON THE TOWN!
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, BABY! I'LL ONLY BE A FEW MINUTES! MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE IN THERE!
HMM! I MUST SAY THESE NEW BACHELOR APARTMENTS COME WELL EQUIPPED, DRIFT MARLO!
TOM COOKE

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DRIFT MARLO

by Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke and Phil Evans

ON A DATE WITH CLAIRE FOSTER, DRIFT MARLO DROPS BY HIS APARTMENT AND FINDS A GIRL WAITING...
DON'T YOU REMEMBER ME, MR. MARLO? JUDY APPLETON! I MET YOU AT THE AIR BASE WHEN THE HIGH SCHOOL PUT ON THAT SHOW FOR SERVICEMEN!
OH, SURE, NOW I REMEMBER! SAY, YOU'VE GROWN UP SINCE THEN!
7-17
DON'T LET THAT LIPSTICK AND POWDER FOOL YOU, DRIFT! WADN'T YOU BETTER ASK HER WHAT SHE'S DOING HERE?

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DRIFT MARLO

by Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke and Phil Evans

HOW'D YOU GET INTO MY APARTMENT, JUDY?
YOUR DOOR WAS AJAR, MR. MARLO! WHEN NOBODY ANSWERED, I WALKED IN AND MADE MYSELF AT HOME! I IMAGINED YOU'D BE RIGHT BACK!
7-18
I DON'T GET IT! I LOCKED UP BEFORE GOING TO THE BASE! LET'S CHECK THE OTHER ROOMS!
TOM COOKE
RANSACKED!
JUDY'S ARRIVAL MUST HAVE SCARED THE BURGLAR!

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DRIFT MARLO

by Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke and Phil Evans

THE CUFF LINKS YOU GAVE ME, A BUSTED WRIST WATCH, AND A LEATHER WALLET CONTAINING SOME OLD CLIPPINGS!
ANYTHING STOLEN, DRIFT?
7-19
NOT MUCH OF A HAUL/ HARDLY SEEMS WORTH THE TROUBLE-- UNLESS THE CLIPPINGS WERE IMPORTANT!
T COOKE
ONLY TO ME, CLAIRE, BUT I WOULDN'T WANT THEM IN THE WRONG HANDS!
JEEPERS! I HOPE YOU DON'T SUSPECT ME! YOU CAN SEARCH MY BAG!

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DRIFT MARLO

by Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke and Phil Evans

NOW, YOUNG LADY, EXACTLY WHY DID YOU COME TO MY APARTMENT?
GOLLY, LIKE THIS IS WILD -- BEING GRILLED BY A REAL SECURITY MAN!
ACTUALLY, MR. MARLO, I CAME TO ASK PERMISSION TO WATCH THE SATELLITE LAUNCHING AT THE BASE... TO COVER IT FOR MY SCHOOL PAPER!
7-20
YOU'RE A SWEET KID, JUDY, BUT I'VE GOT TO TURN YOU DOWN!
AND BATTING YOUR EYES WILL GET YOU NOWHERE, HONEY--I KNOW!

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DRIFT MARLO

by Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke and Phil Evans

7-21
WHY CAN'T I WITNESS THE SPACE SHOT TOMORROW, DRIFT MARLO? WHAT AM I, A SPY OR SOMETHING?
T Q COOKE
OF COURSE NOT, JUDY! MY REASON FOR NOT GIVING YOU A PASS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU PERSONALLY! NOW RUN ON HOME LIKE A GOOD GIRL!
JUST WAIT TILL THE KIDS AT SCHOOL HEAR ABOUT THIS! THEY'LL CALL YOU A REAL FLIMP!
FREELY TRANSLATED, DRIFT, THAT MEANS "STINKER!"

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DRIFT MARLO

by Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke and Phil Evans

SORRY ABOUT POSTPONING OUR DATE AGAIN, CLAIRE! I'VE GOT TO PICK UP MY GEAR AND CHECK MY ROOM FOR FINGERPRINTS!
OP
IGHTS
TATION
ASE
I'M NOT THINKING OF MYSELF, DRIFT! I FEEL SORRY FOR POOR LITTLE JUDY NOT BEING ABLE TO WATCH THE SPACE SHOT!
7-22
TO BE FRANK, CLAIRE, IT COULD MEAN MY JOB IF I LET THAT PARTICULAR KID ON THE BASE!
COOKE

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

DRIFT MARLO WOULD FLIP IF HE KNEW I HID IN HIS CAR TO GET ON THE AIRBASE!
I'M ALWAYS STICKING MY NECK OUT! I BRAGGED TO MY JOURNALISM CLASS I COULD COVER THE ROCKET LAUNCHING FOR THE SCHOOL PAPER...
TOM COOKE
7-27
AND NOW I'VE GOT TO DELIVER!

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

THIS PARKING AREA'S RESTRICTED TO AIRBASE PERSONNEL, YOUNG LADY!
SO WHAT, GENERAL? I'M PRACTICALLY PERSONNEL!
7-26
YOU SEE, DADDY'S A SECURITY OFFICER!
HMM, DRIFT MARLO! FUNNY, I DIDN'T KNOW HE HAD A DAUGHTER!
"DADDY SAID I COULD SIT IN HIS CAR AND WATCH THE SATELLITE LAUNCHING!"
T COOKE

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

HI, HUGO! YOUR BEAUTIFUL SECRETARY SAID TO PICK HER UP HERE WHEN I GOT READY TO SHOVE OFF!
CLAIRE'S ON AN ERRAND FOR ME, DRIFT! STICK AROUND!
TOM COOKE
I'M RUNNING A TEST ON A MODIFIED WEATHER SATELLITE SCHEDULED TO GO ALOFT AFTER WE PUT ANOTHER PROTOTYPE IN ORBIT TONIGHT!
WHAT WE LEARN ABOUT STORMS FROM THESE WEATHER PATROL MOONS IS FANTASTIC... I SAY, ARE YOU LISTENING DRIFT?
HUH? OH, SURE, DOC! I'M ALL FOR MOONS!

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT AN ABORTIVE ROBBERY AT YOUR APARTMENT, DRIFT? CLAIRE WAS TELLING ME THE BURGLAR DIDN'T GET MUCH!
ONLY IMPORTANT LOSS WAS THOSE OLD WAR CLIPPINGS ABOUT ME, HUGO! I MEAN TO GET THEM BACK SOMEHOW!
WHY? CAN'T YOU LET THE PAST REST IN PEACE?
I WISH I COULD, PAL! I TRY NOT TO LET IT SHOW, BUT IT'S THE PAST THAT HAUNTS ME!
T.C. COOKE

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

FORGET THE PAST, DRIFT! YOU WEREN'T THE ONLY CASUALTY FOUND HALF DEAD, DRIFTING IN A SWOLLEN STREAM IN KOREA!
7-28
MAYBE NOT, HUGO, BUT FIVE WILL GET YOU TEN THAT I'M THE ONLY GUY TO COME BACK WITH NO MEMORY OF WHO HE WAS BEFORE THE WAR!
TOM COOKE
IT'S STRANGE! WE CAN PROBE SPACE WITH THESE SATELLITES, BUT WE CAN'T PENETRATE THE BARRIER OF SOME TYPES OF AMNESIA!
ANYHOW, DRIFT MARLO'S A BETTER NAME TO USE THAN JOHN DOE!

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

DON'T LAUGH, HUGO, BUT I OFTEN WONDER IF I WAS A FAMILY MAN BEFORE THE WAR / WHAT IF I'VE STILL GOT A WIFE SOMEWHERE?
KNOWING YOU, I'D SAY THAT'S HARDLY LIKELY!
7-29
EXCUSE ME, MR. MARLO. DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU NEGLECTED TO GIVE YOUR DAUGHTER AN OFFICIAL PASS TO WATCH THE ROCKET SHOOT?
HUH? MY DAUGHTER?
TOM COOKE

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

SHE SAYS SHE'S YOUR DAUGHTER, MR. MARLO!
NONSENSE! SHE'S JUDY APPLETON!... I'LL TAKE OVER FROM HERE, SERGEANT!
I'M SORRY! IT WAS STUPID OF ME TO HIDE IN YOUR CAR SO I COULD SNEAK INTO THE AIR BASE!
T COOKE
DRIFT, IS THIS LOVELY CHILD THE NIECE OF THAT CRACKPOT, LUTHER APPLETON?
THE SAME, HUGO! I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TROUBLES DO I?

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

NO, JUDY! THAT'S PART OF A WEATHER SATELLITE, LIKE THE ONE ON THE THOR-ABLE BOOSTER ABOUT TO GO ALOFT!
JEEPERS, DRIFT, I MEAN MR. MARLO, IS THIS PART OF THE ROCKET?
I'LL GET THE KID OFF THE BASE QUIETLY, HUGO, BEFORE SOMEBODY ACCUSES US OF HARBORING A TEENAGE MATA HARI!
I HEARD THAT, DRIFT MARLO!

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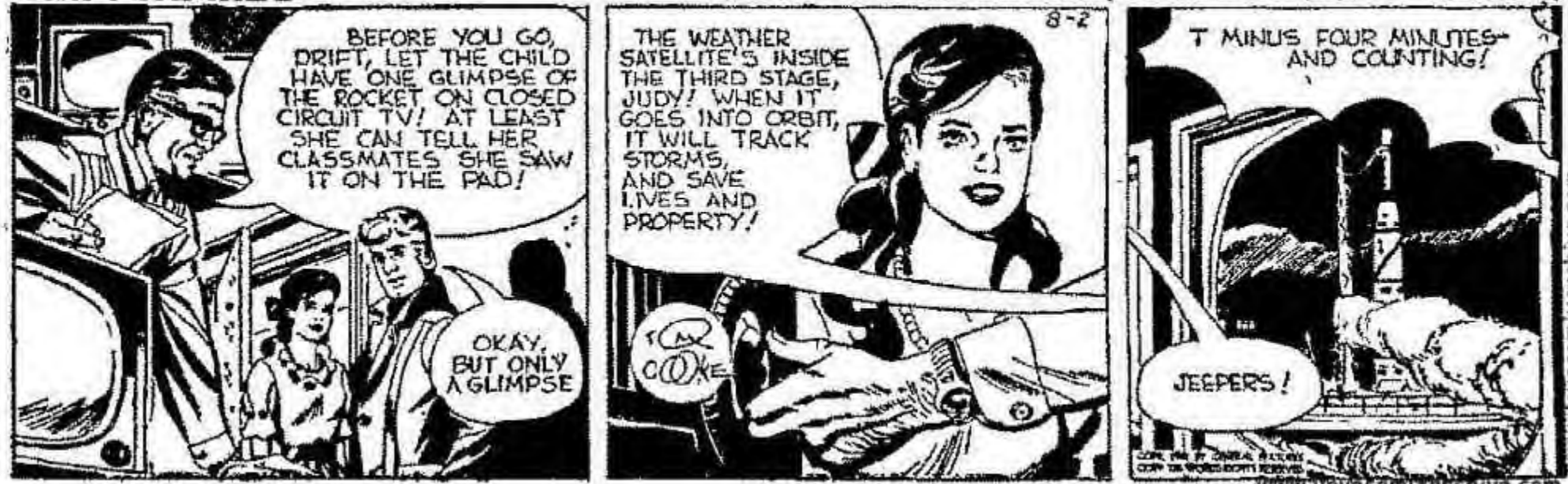
DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)


BEFORE YOU GO, DRIFT, LET THE CHILD HAVE ONE GLIMPSE OF THE ROCKET ON CLOSED CIRCUIT TV! AT LEAST SHE CAN TELL HER CLASSMATES SHE SAW IT ON THE PAD!
OKAY, BUT ONLY A GLIMPSE
8-2
THE WEATHER SATELLITE'S INSIDE THE THIRD STAGE, JUDY! WHEN IT GOES INTO ORBIT, IT WILL TRACK STORMS, AND SAVE LIVES AND PROPERTY!
TOM COOKE
T MINUS FOUR MINUTES— AND COUNTING!
JEEPERS!

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

DRIFT MARLO, I THINK YOU'RE MEAN, NOT TELLING ME WHY I CAN'T COVER THE ROCKET FIRING FOR MY SCHOOL PAPER!
RELAX, JUDY! YOU'RE OKAY, BUT IT'S YOUR UNCLE! HIS NAME IS POISON ON THIS AIR BASE!

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DR .LO
by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)
JUDY! WHAT WERE YOU DOING INSIDE THE AIR BASE? WAS MARLO INDOCTRINATING YOU WITH HIS CRAZY SPACE PHILOSOPHY? GO HOME THIS INSTANT!
OH, UNCLE, I'M SO ASHAMED OF YOU!
DOWN WITH UP
APPLETON, WE'RE GETTING FED UP WITH YOU AND YOUR CRONIES PICKETING WHENEVER THERE'S A LAUNCHING!
TOM COOKE
8-4
NOW MOVE ON!
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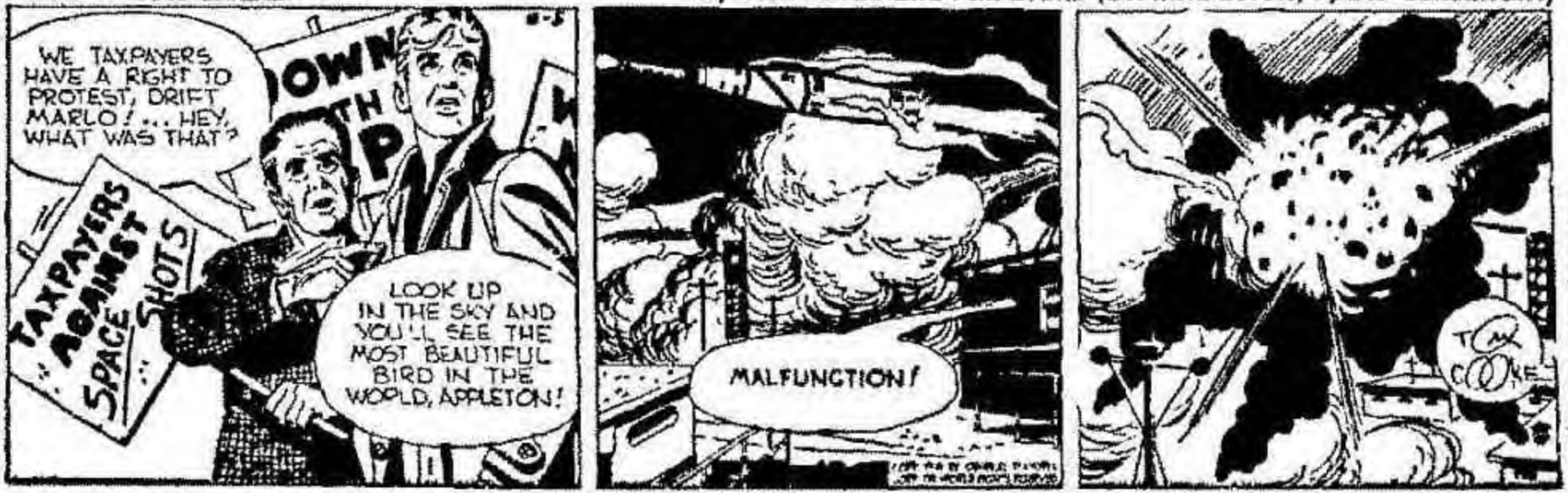
DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)


WE TAXPAYERS HAVE A RIGHT TO PROTEST, DRIFT MARLO! ... HEY, WHAT WAS THAT?
TAXPAYERS AGAINST SPACE SHOTS
LOOK UP IN THE SKY AND YOU'LL SEE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BIRD IN THE WOPLD, APPLETON!
MALFUNCTION!
TOM COOKE

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DRIFT MARLO by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans. (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

TAXPAYERS AGAINST SPACE SH
SO ANOTHER ROCKET BLEW UP, DRIFT MARLO! I KEEP SAYING YOU FELLAS WASTE THE TAXPAYERS' MONEY! THIS PROVES IT!
SOMETIMES I WONDER IF SCIENTISTS AREN'T WASTING THEIR TIME TRYING TO HELP CITIZENS LIKE YOU, APPLETON!
AIR POLICE
WHO NEEDS WEATHER SATELLITES? EVERY TIME YOU LAUNCH A ROCKET FROM THIS BASE, I HAVE TO REPLASTER THE CRACKS IN MY WALLS!
TOM COOKE
8-7

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans. (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant

THE RANGE SAFETY OFFICER IN CENTRAL CONTROL DESTROYED IT ON TAKE-OFF MALFUNCTION! WHEN THE ENGINEERS FIND OUT WHAT WENT WRONG, WE'LL TRY AGAIN!

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans. (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE NOT GOING TO WASTE ANY TIME BOOSTING ANOTHER WEATHER SATELLITE INTO ORBIT, HUGO!
8-9
TM COOKE
I WISH PEOPLE UNDERSTOOD HOW VITAL IT IS TO STUDY LARGE SCALE WEATHER PATTERNS, DRIFT! IT'S THE FIRST STEP TOWARD METEOROLOGICAL CONTROL!
I KNOW! IF AN UNFRIENDLY NATION CAN CONTROL THE WEATHER, WE'RE SUNK!

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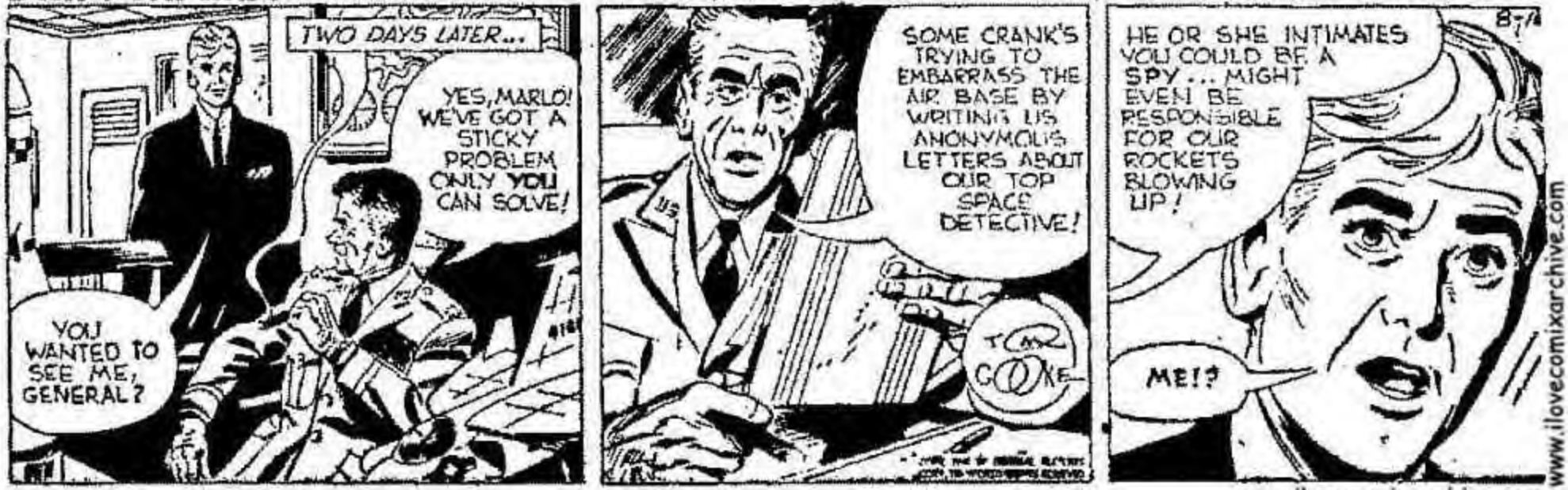
DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans. (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant


TWO DAYS LATER...
YES, MARLO! WE'VE GOT A STICKY PROBLEM ONLY YOU CAN SOLVE!
YOU WANTED TO SEE ME, GENERAL?
SOME CRANK'S TRYING TO EMBARRASS THE AIR BASE BY WRITING US ANONYMOUS LETTERS ABOUT OUR TOP SPACE DETECTIVE!
TOM COOKE
HE OR SHE INTIMATES YOU COULD BE A SPY... MIGHT EVEN BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR ROCKETS BLOWING UP!
ME!?

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans. (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

SOME CRACKPOT WROTE US ALL ABOUT YOUR AMNESIA DURING THE WAR, MARLO ... EVEN REMINDED US YOU DON'T RECALL YOUR OWN IDENTITY BEFORE YOUR RESCUE!
THAT MAKES ME A SPY?
HEY, I GET IT, GENERAL! SOMEBODY READ THOSE OLD CUPPINGS STOLEN FROM MY ROOMS!
RIGHT, MARLO! YOU'VE GOT TO STOP THOSE RUMORS FAST — BEFORE CERTAIN TOWNSPEOPLE TRY TO SMEAR THE AIR BASE!
T COOKE

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans. (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

YEAH, THIS IS MARLO! DID YOU BOYS DOWN AT THE PRECINCT CHECK OUT THOSE FINGERPRINTS I GAVE YOU FROM MY BURGLED ROOMS?
TOM COOKE
TO GATE
VISITORS INFORMATION CENTER
THEY BELONG TO WHO? OH, NO, NOT A LADY BURGLAR! ... HEY, WAIT, I'M BEING BUZZED BY A PAPER JET!
JUDY APPLETON! YOU ---!
PSST! DRIFT, WE'VE GOT TO TALK RIGHT AWAY --IT'S IMPORTANT!

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

A SHADOW IS CAST ON DRIFT MARLO'S LOYALTY BY AN UNKNOWN RUMOR-MONGER WHO ACQUIRED STOLEN NEWS CLIPPINGS CONCERNING DRIFT'S MYSTERIOUS PAST...

TM COOKE
8-14
GATE ENT
GLAD YOU RECOVERED MY STOLEN STUFF, LIEUTENANT! I'LL DRIVE TO THE STATION IMMEDIATELY!
AND NOW, YOUNG LADY, WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT IT CAN'T WAIT?
PLEASE, DRIFT, I'VE GOT TO TALK TO YOU!
VISITORS
ORMATIO
CENTE

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

8-15
JEEPERS, THIS IS WILD! I MEAN LIKE US BEING ALONE AT LAST!
CUT THE GROWN-UP BIT, KID! WHAT IS IT YOUVE JUST GOT TO TELL ME?
MY MEAN OLD UNCLE LUTHER'S GETTING UP AN OFFICIAL PETITION FOR HOMEOWNERS TO PROTEST AGAINST ROCKET BLASTS ON THE AIR BASE!
HE'S SOME PATRIOT! IF WE DISCONTINUE TESTING HE AND HIS CRONIES WONT HAVE ANY HOMES TO GET BIG CRACKS IN!
TOM COOKE

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

YIPES, THE POLICE STATION! DRIFT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE MY UNCLE ARRESTED?
POLICE STATION
RELAX, JUDY, AND STAY HERE! THIS IS PERSONAL BUSINESS!
HOCK SHOP DETAIL RECOVERED YOUR STOLEN GOODIES, MARLO! SORRY WE HAVEN'T PICKED UP THE BURGLAR YET. KNOWING HER, SHE PROBABLY DISPOSED OF THIS STUFF TO BUY A JUG!
TOM COOKE
8-16
I KEPT SOME OLD WAR CLIPPINGS STASHED IN THIS WALLET... AND THEY'RE MISSING!

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8-17
ONLY TO SOMEBODY WHO WOULD DELIBERATELY MISINTERPRET THE INFORMATION THEY CONTAINED TO TRY AND DISCREDIT MY LOYALTY, LIEUTENANT!
T M COOKE

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DRIFT MARLO —By Cooke and Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

WOW! NO WONDER YOU CUT SUMMER SCHOOL TODAY! WHO OWNS THE COOL WHEELS, JUDY?
MR MARLO! HE'S SOME KIND OF A SPACE DETECTIVE AT THE AIR BASE.
I--I'M HELPING HIM ON A CASE!
POLICE STATION
IS AIN'T WORKING
COOKE
NOT DRIFT MARLO? HAW, MY DAD SAYS HE HEARD A RUMOR HE'S GOT SMOG IN THE NOGGIN! THEY SAY HE MAY E.EN BE A SPY!
YOU TAKE THAT BACK, GEORGIE GISSON, OR I'LL SCRATCH YOUR EYES OUT!
HEY-- EASY!

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

ALL RIGHT, KIDS, BREAK IT UP!
JUDY APPLETON, JUST WAIT TILL I TELL YOUR UNCLE I SAW YOU WITH THAT... THAT SPY!
COKE
D-DID YOU HEAR WHAT HE CALLED YOU, DRIFT?
YEAH-YEAH, I HEARD!

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

FORGET WHAT A PUNK KID SAID, JUDY! COME ON, I'LL BUY YOU A SODA, THEN PACK YOU OFF HOME!
TOM COOKE
8-21
BUT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT, DRIFT! WHY WOULD ANYBODY SPREAD A LIE ABOUT YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE, BEING A SPY?
RUMORS SNOWBALL FAST! BESIDES, THE WHISPERING CAMPAIGN WAS STARTED TO EMBARRASS THE AIR BASE! MY JOB IS TO FIND OUT WHO'S RESPONSIBLE!

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

GO INSIDE AND ORDER YOUR SODA, JUDY! I'LL JOIN YOU IN A MINUTE!
OKAY, DRIFT, BUT I'M GOING TO HAVE A FABULOUS SPECIAL. YUMMY!
HMM, THIS IS THE HOCK SHOP WHERE THE POLICE RECOVERED MY STOLEN GOODS!
BIG TOE
TOM COOKE
DRIFT MARLO! IF THAT JOKER'S REALLY A SPY, I DON'T WANT HIM COMING IN HERE!

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

WE GOT NO BUSINESS TOGETHER, MARLO! BEAT IT!
I WANT A WORD WITH YOU, MISTER!
HOW COME YOU KNOW MY NAME? WE'VE NEVER SEEN EACH OTHER BEFORE!
I SEEN YOUR PICTURE, THAT IS, I MEAN---!
SURE, I KNOW! YOU SAW PICTURES OF ME IN NEWS CLIPPINGS THAT WERE IN THIS WALLET... THE WALLET A TIPSY OLD LADY BURGLAR SOLD YOU FOR A FEW PALTRY PENNIES! RIGHT?

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

MISTER, I WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU DID WITH THE CLIPPINGS THAT WERE IN THIS OLD WALLET BEFORE YOU RETURNED IT TO THE POLICE!
NOTHIN', MARLO! THEY WERE OLD, SO WHAT GOOD...?
B-27
T COOKE
WHERE ARE THE CLIPPINGS? TALK!
I-I GAVE 'EM TO THE GUY WHO OWNS ALL THE STORES ON THIS BLOCK-- LUTHER APPLETON!

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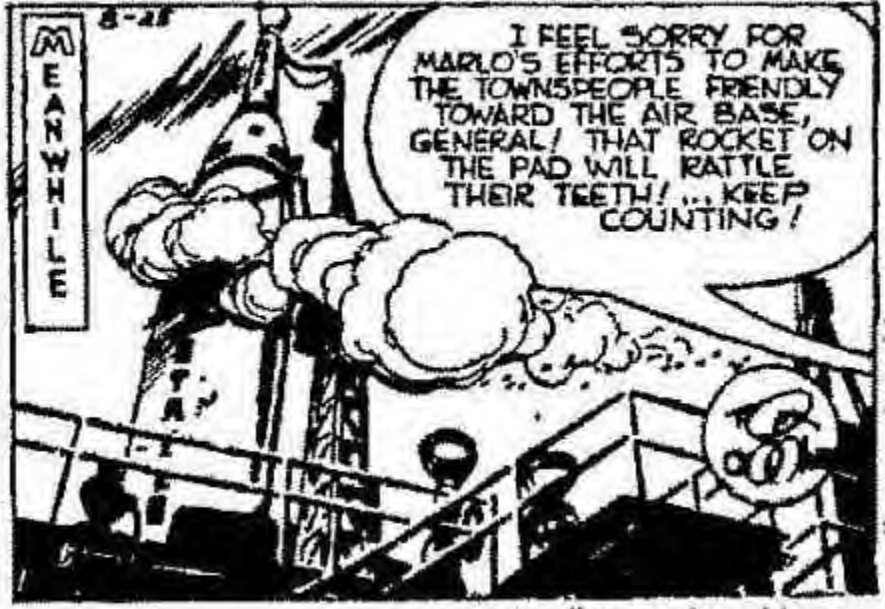
DRIFT MARLO by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

WHEN YOU GAVE APPLETON THE CLIPPINGS ABOUT MY PAST, YOU KNEW HE'D USE THEM TO MAKE TROUBLE FOR THE AIR BASE, DIDN'T YOU?
MAYBE! I KNEW HE WAS FIGHTING AGAINST THE ROCKET FIRINGS, SO I HELPED HIM OUT! AFTER ALL, I OWE HIM THREE MONTHS BACK RENT!


8-28
MEANWHILE
I FEEL SORRY FOR MARLO'S EFFORTS TO MAKE THE TOWNSPEOPLE FRIENDLY TOWARD THE AIR BASE, GENERAL! THAT ROCKET ON THE PAD WILL RATTLE THEIR TEETH! ... KEEP COUNTING!

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GO, BABY, GO, GO, GO!
NOT EVERYBODY, DR. BARCUS!
IT LOOKS PERFECT, GENERAL! EVERYBODY WILL BE
I CAN HEAR SOME CRACKPOT ASKING WHO NEEDS A WEATHER SATELLITE 400 MILES OUT IN SPACE WHEN WE HAVE A WEATHERMAN AT CITY HALL!
TOM COOKE

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DRIFT MARLO

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AFTER THE PAYLOAD HAS SEPARATED FROM THE ROCKET'S FINAL STAGE, THE WEATHER SATELLITE CONTINUES TO ORBIT THE EARTH...
8-28
ALL INSTRUMENTS ABOARD THE VEHICLE ARE WORKING PERFECTLY, GENERAL. METEOROLOGISTS CAN START EVALUATING THE TRANSMITTED DATA ANY TIME!
FINE, DR. BAROUS! NOW IF DRIFT MARLO SUCCEEDS IN GETTING CERTAIN IRATE CITIZENS OFF OUR BACKS, THIS WILL BE AN ALL-OKAY DAY!

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

JEEPERS, UNCLE LUTHER WILL SKIN ME ALIVE FOR BRINGING YOU HERE DURING ONE OF HIS MEETINGS, DRIFT!
LUTHER MARLO
I WON'T FORGET WHAT YOU'RE DOING FOR THE AIR BASE, JUDY -- AND ESPECIALLY FOR ME!
8-29
TOM COOKE
FRIENDS, WITH ENOUGH SIGNATURES ON THIS PETITION, WE'LL WIN! I'M CONFIDENT WE CAN STOP THOSE ANNOYING ROCKET FIRINGS SO CLOSE TO OUR PROPERTIES!

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DRIFT MARLO

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AS YOU KNOW, ONLY THIS MORNING ANOTHER SATELLITE WAS LAUNCHED! HOW MUCH WILL THAT ONE COST US HELPLESS TAXPAYERS? AND...
8-30
I FOR ONE AM FED UP WITH THESE SILLY SPACE SHOTS! WHAT GOOD ARE THEY? WHY SHOULD WE TINKER WITH THE GREAT UNKNOWN?
I'D LIKE TO ANSWER THOSE QUESTIONS, APPLETON!
TOM COOKE
DRIFT MARLO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

8-31
WHAT YOU AND I SPEND ON WEATHER SATELLITES SAVES US MONEY! DID YOU KNOW THEY HELP US AVOID LOSSES FROM NATURAL DISASTERS THAT CAN'T BE PREDICTED DOWN HERE?
"INFORMATION TRANSMITTED FROM WEATHER MOONS TIPS OFF FARMERS ABOUT STORMS AND DROUGHTS WHICH AFFECT THE HIGH COST OF FOOD. THAT SAVES US MONEY, TOO!"
COOKE

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DRIFT MARLO

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THAT WAS A SWINGING SPEECH YOU MADE, DRIFT!
I SHOULD HAVE SAID MORE JUDY, BUT DON'T FORGET, I'M HERE TO FIND SOME MISSING CLIPPINGS ABOUT ME!

DISCOUNT EVERYTHING MARLO SAID, FOLKS! AS A MATTER OF FACT, I HAVE INFORMATION ON MY DESK THAT MAY EVEN PUT HIS LOYALTY IN DOUBT!

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

I'M THROUGH FOOLING AROUND WITH YOU, APPLETON! I WANT THOSE NEWS CLIPPINGS ABOUT MY PAST! I'VE GOT PROOF THEY WERE GIVEN TO YOU!
HELP YOURSELF, MARLO! THEY'VE BEEN PHOTOSTATED FOR FUTURE USE!
TOM COOKE
9-2
DRIFT! THESE OLD CLIPPINGS! IS--IS IT TRUE WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT YOU?

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

LUTHER APPLETON'S HOME.
I'LL TAKE THOSE OLD NEWS CLIPPINGS, JUDY!
DRIFT, ARE THE STORIES ACTUALLY ABOUT YOU?
I WOULDN'T HAVE SAVED THEM ALL THESE YEARS IF THEY WEREN'T!
9-4
TOM COOKE
Amnesia Victim At Base Hospital - With Serious Head Wounds
Marines Rescue Civilian Adrift in Korean Creek
Mystery Man Will Recover Except For Memory Loss

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

DO YOU MEAN YOU NEVER FOUND OUT WHO YOU WERE BEFORE THE WAR, DRIFT? GOLLY, WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN KOREA IN THE FIRST PLACE?
T Cooke
YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE, JUDY!
HUMPH! THEN WHERE'D YOU GET THE NAME DRIFT MARLO?
THAT'S A LONG STORY, APPLETON, AND SINCE I'M NOT HERE TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS, WE'LL SKIP IT!
9-5

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant).

IF YOUR PAST IS SUCH A CLOSED BOOK, MARLO, HOW COME YOU GOT CLEARED TO BECOME A SECURITY MAN?
UNCLE! THAT'S THE GOVERNMENT'S BUSINESS!
BY GEORGE, I THINK WE TAXPAYERS HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW!
9-6
APPLETON, YOU'RE RATTLING THE SKELETON IN MY CLOSET AS PART OF YOUR CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE AIR BASE! STOP IT, OR I'LL USE MY AUTHORITY TO MUZZLE YOU!
TOM COOKE

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

DRIFT, I KNOW EXACTLY HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT BLANK SPOT IN YOUR MEMORY!
YOU'RE A LITTLE YOUNG FOR A HEAD-SHRINKER, JUDY!
BUT I DO KNOW!. MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I CAN'T REMEMBER MY PARENTS --I WAS SO YOUNG WHEN THEY DIED!
CHIN UP, JUDY! PEOPLE LIKE US SHOULD NEVER LOOK BACK! SEE YOU LATER!
9-7
TOM COOKE

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

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DRIFT MARLO

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THERE IS AN IRONIC TWIST TO THE RECENT LOCAL LAUNCHING OF THE 42-INCH, DRUM-SHAPED WEATHER SATELLITE...
A NEWS TELECAST SOON AFTER DRIFT LEAVES THE APPLETON HOME...
AS YOU KNOW, THE MOONLET TRANSMITS CLOUD COVER PICTURES FROM AN ORBIT 400 MILES IN SPACE. WEATHER ANALYSTS EVALUATING THE LATEST PHOTOS AGREE THAT...
TWIN
FIDDLESTICKS
?-?
... A BIG STORM FRONT IS BEARING DOWN ON THE VERY AREA WHERE THE WEATHER SPY WAS SENT ALOFT!!

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by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

DATA ON THE WEATHER FRONT MOVING RAPIDLY INTO THIS GENERAL COASTAL AREA IS BEING RELAYED BY THE ORBITING SATELLITE TO TRACKING STATIONS ON EARTH...
THUS, THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE IMPENDING STORM CAN BE OBSERVED AND ANALYZED BY WEATHER FORECASTERS BELOW...
UNCLE, DONT TURN IT OFF!
9-11
THAT FOOL ANNOUNCER ALWAYS DRAMATIZES! HE'D LIKE US TO BELIEVE THAT SPACE GADGET IS WORTH WHAT WE TAXPAYERS PAID TO LAUNCH IT!
SNAP

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DRIFT MARLO

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UNCLE LUTHER, I DON'T BELIEVE YOU PAID ATTENTION WHEN DRIFT TOLD HOW IMPORTANT WEATHER SATELLITES ARE!
RUBBISH! I'LL STICK TO LIVE WEATHERMEN!

MEANWHILE, THE 285-POUND "WEATHER SPY" CONTINUES IN ORBIT WITH IT'S TWO TV CAMERAS, INFRARED SCANNERS AND RADIOS PERIODICALLY ACTIVATED ON GROUND COMMAND FROM WALLOPS ISLAND, VA., AND SAN NICOLAS ISLAND, CALIF.
TOM COOKE

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

I WONDER IF I SHOULD TELL DRIFT MARLO WHY MY UNCLE IS REALLY AGITATING AGAINST ROCKET FIRINGS AT THE AIR FORCE BASE!
T COOKE

AT THE AFB CAFETERIA...
DRIFT, YOU LOOK BEAT! HAS THAT TEENAGE MONSTER BEEN MAKING YOU LOB MISSILES OUT TO SEA WITH A BASEBALL BAT?

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

JUDY'S OKAY, CLAIRE! SHE HELPED ME RECOVER MY STOLEN CLIPPINGS FROM HER CRACKPOT UNCLE!
TOO BAD SHE DIDN'T PUT A MATCH TO THEM, DRIFT... THEN YOU'D HAVE NOTHING TO REMIND YOU THAT YOU CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING BEYOND THE WAR!
9-14
TOM COOKE
MAYBE I'M LUCKY AT THAT! NO MEMORIES ... SO NO REGRETS!
AHEM!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO BE FLIPPANT, DARLING!

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

I'LL GET BACK TO THE OFFICE! SEE YOU LATER, DRIFT!
RIGHT! CALL ME AS SOON AS YOU GET A RUN-DOWN ON THE WEATHER!
9-15
WELL, MY FRIEND, DID YOU FIND OUT IF APPLETON IS RUNNING THE LOCAL RUMOR AND POISON PEN FACTORY?
HARDLY ANY DOUBT OF IT, DOC! I TRIED TO THROW A SCARE INTO HIM! I HOPE THAT'LL KEEP HIM OFF OUR BACKS UNTIL I DIG UP HIS MOTIVE FOR AGITATING AGAINST THE AIR BASE!
TOM COOKE

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

LOOKS LIKE THE LOCAL WEATHER STATIONS CONFIRMED YOUR SATELLITE'S WARNING, HUGO! THEY'RE GETTING EVERYTHING BATTENED DOWN FOR THE BIG BLOW!
I'VE GOT TO SET UP SPECIAL SECURITY MEASURES! IF THE STORM GETS HAIRY, WE MAY HAVE VISITORS!
VISITORS? WHAT KIND, DRIFT?
T. Cooke

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

AS A VIOLENT STORM SWOOPS DOWN ALMOST VINDICTIVELY ON THE LAUNCH SITE OF THE WEATHER SATELLITE WHICH FIRST DETECTED IT IN SPACE...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, DRIFT, WE MAY HAVE VISITORS?
THE LOCAL TOWNSFOLK! IF THE STORM GETS TOO RUGGED, WE MAY HAVE TO EVACUATE THEM FROM FLOODED AREAS!
HAS ANYONE SUGGESTED THEY USE THEIR ANTI-SPACE PICKET SIGNS AS PADDLES?

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DRIFT MARLO.
by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)
WHERE TO, MARLO?
TAKE THEM TO THE CAFETERIA FOR HOT COFFEE AND DRY CLOTHING!
TOM COOKE
WELL! FANCY SEEING YOU HERE, APPLETON!
DON'T CROW! EVEN A DISASTER CAN'T MAKE ME SET FOOT INSIDE YOUR BLASTED AIR BASE, MARLO!
WHERE'S JUDY?
YOU MEAN SHE ISN'T HERE?

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DRIFT MARLO

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JUDY WASN'T HOME WHEN THE FLOOD DROVE ME OUT, MARLO! I FIGURED SHE WAS UP HERE WITH YOU AND YOUR CONFOUNDED ROCKETS!
AS USUAL, YOU WERE WRONG, APPLETON! AND SHE HASN'T BEEN ON ANY BUS ENTERING THIS GATE!
ER, PARDON ME, SIR!
JUDY WAS IN THE MALT SHOP IN TOWN WHEN THE STORM STARTED! SHE WENT TO YOUR SUBDIVISION, TO SEE IF YOU WERE OKAY! NOBODY'S SEEN HER SINCE!
T COOKE

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MARLO, WE'VE GOT TO FIND MY NIECE! DO YOU HEAR?
STOW THE GAB AND JUST SHOW ME WHERE YOUR SUBDIVISION IS, APPLETON!
MY TRACT'S IN THE BASIN AT THE EDGE OF TOWN! THOSE HOUSES ARE UNDER WATER BY NOW! IF JUDY'S DOWN THERE, SHE'LL NEVER GET OUT!
9-22
WE'LL FIND HER! YOU MAY AGITATE AGAINST THE ROCKET BASE, PAL, BUT YOU CAN BE THANKFUL IT HAS EQUIPMENT LIKE THIS!
TM COOKE

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DEVASTATING FLOOD WATERS INUNDATE THE LOWLANDS NEAR THE AIR BASE, TRAPPING JUDY ON A CRUMBLING ROOFTOP...
CRACK
YIPES! IT'S CRACKING OPEN!
9-25
HELP!

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SEEMS LIKE I HEARD A CRY FOR HELP, APPLETON SEE ANYTHING?
NOTHING, MARLO ...ONLY WRECKAGE OF MY BEAUTIFUL GROUP OF LUXURY HOMES / I'VE LOST EVERYTHING!
9/26
T COOKE
HOUSES CAN BE REPLACED. UNFORTUNATELY, JUDY CAN'T!

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IT'S NO USE, MARLO! JUDY'S GONE!
I DON'T GIVE UP THAT EASY, APPLETON! LET'S SEE WHAT'S AROUND THESE TREE TOPS!
JUDY!
9-27
CUT THE MOTOR!
U.S.A.

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IS SHE--?
I DON'T THINK SO, APPLETON!
YOU GOTTA REVIVE HER -- HURRY!
HOW ABOUT GIVING HER MOUTH-TO-MOUTH RESPIRATION, MARLO?
9-28
T. M. COOKE

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DRIFT MARLO

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HURRY, MARLO -- BLOW SOME AIR INTO HER LUNGS!
WHY? THE WAY SHE'S PANTING, SHE'S INHALING OXYGEN LIKE THERE IS NO TOMORROW!
CHICKEN!
9-27
I'M ALL RIGHT NOW, UNCLE LUTHER -- JUST EXHAUSTED! I MUST HAVE FAINTED WHEN I CLIMBED ON THAT FLOATING WOOD! I LOVE YOU BOTH FOR RESCUING ME!
T COOKE

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AT THE BASE...
CLAIRE, TAKE CARE OF JUDY WHILE I GET DRY CLOTHES! THE KID'S WRUNG OUT!
YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD EITHER, DRIFT!
TOM COOKE
JEEPERS, IT'S FATE! HE FOUND ME DRIFTING IN THE FLOOD WATERS -- JUST EXACTLY AS HE WAS FOUND THAT DAY IN KOREA!
NOW DRIFT AND I HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON, HAVEN'T WE?
YES, DEAR, EXCEPT THAT AFTER YOUR ORDEAL, YOU STILL KNOW WHO YOU ARE!

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DRIFT MARLO

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10-2
DRIFT MARLO -- WHAT A WONDERFUL GUY! CLAIRE, I DIG HOW HE PICKED UP THE NAME, "DRIFT," BUT WHERE DID HE LATCH ONTO "MARLO?"
T. Q. COOKE
IN A HOSPITAL IN KOREA WHERE HE WAS CONVALESCING AND TRYING VAINLY TO BRIDGE THE PAST, JUDY...
"FOR WEEKS HE STARED AT FIVE LETTERS ON A CORRIDOR WALL - ALL HE COULD GLIMPSE OF A U.S. MARINE LOUNGE SIGN."
MAR
LO
M-A-R-L-O. IT'S AS GOOD A NAME AS ANY!

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DRIFT MARLO

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JEEPERS, WITH NO MEMORY OF HIS PAST, AND HIS TRUE NAME UNKNOWN. HOW COULD DRIFT GET SECURITY CLEARANCE FOR HIS JOB?
10-3
T. M. COOKE
THAT CAN BE ANSWERED ONLY BY THE INTELLIGENCE BOYS--AND THEY DON'T TALK!
IT'S ALL SO CLOAK-AND-DAGGERISH! I MUST FIND OUT WHO DRIFT MARLO REALLY IS, OR I'LL DIE OF CURIOSITY!
IF HE CAN LIVE THROUGH IT, I'M SURE YOU CAN, JUDY!

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LOOK, APPLETON! WHY NOT BUILD SMALLER HOMES FOR AIR BASE PERSONNEL WHO'D BE PROUD TO BE NEAR THE FIRINGS?
HMM, IF YOU CAN'T BEAT 'EM, JOIN 'EM, EH?

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE WE WON'T HAVE ANY MORE TROUBLE FROM APPLETON AND HIS DISCIPLES, MARLO?
THE STORM'S OVER, BUT THEY DON'T WANT TO LEAVE! DOC BARCUS IS HIPPING THEM ON SPACE!

...SO WEATHER SATELLITES ARE ONLY A FORERUNNER OF STORM PATROL VEHICLES! EVENTUALLY THEY MAY EVEN CONTROL THE WEATHER TO AVOID SUCH DISASTERS AS TODAY'S!

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DRIFT MARLO

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'BYE, DRIFT! I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU -- AND I'LL PRAY THAT SOME DAY YOU'LL BE ABLE TO RECALL 'WAY BACK TO WHEN YOU WERE MY AGE!
SOME WISEACRE ONCE SAID, "WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW WON'T HURT YOU." I'M WITH HIM! SEE YOU AROUND, GIRLS!
WHO IS HE, CLAIRE? WHERE DID HE COME FROM? WHAT--?
PERHAPS SOME DAY HE'LL KNOW, HONEY... BUT TO ME, HE'LL ALWAYS BE DRIFT MARLO!

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DRIFT MARLO

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A PLANT NEAR THE ROCKET BASE...
MY ORDERS ARE TO DELIVER TWO OF THESE SPACE GADGETS TO THE BASE! WHERE'S THE OTHER ONE?
IT'S DISMANTLED, CRATED AND READY TO LOAD, JOE! THEY WANT ONE ASSEMBLED TO SAVE TIME!
THIS IS IT! I'VE GOT TO GET TO A PHONE!

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DRIFT MARLO

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KOLTON? THE MOON VEHICLES ARE LEAVING THE PLANT FOR THE BASE NOW! GET MOVING!... OH-OH, HERE COMES SOMEBODY!
NICE OF YOU TO WORK OVERTIME, AMANDA!
GOODNIGHT, BOSS!
AIR POLICE ESCORT! I HOPE KOLTON CAN HANDLE HIM!

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DRIFT MARLO

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AT THE ROCKET BASE WHERE DRIFT MARLO IS A SPECIAL SECURITY OFFICER..
SAW YOUR LIGHTS ON, HUGO! JUST CHECKING UP!
COME IN, DRIFT! I'M WAITING ON DELIVERY OF TWO LUNAR VEHICLES! MEANTIME, I'M MOON-GAZING!
TOM COOKE
I'M CALCULATING THE IMPACT POINT. FOR THE NUMBER ONE VEHICLE!

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DRIFT MARLO

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"AFTER SURVEYOR COMES PROJECT PROSPECTOR, A MOON MOBILE FOR LUNAR EXPLORATION..."
...THEN WE'RE READY FOR MAN-ON-THE-MOON PROJECTS!
TAB COKE
WHEN WILL THE FIRST AERO-DETECTIVE LAND AT A MOON COLONY, HUGO?
THAT DAY MAY BE CLOSER FOR YOU THAN YOU THINK!

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DRIFT MARLO

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ISN'T THE TRUCK LATE THAT'S SUPPOSED TO DELIVER YOUR MOON PROBE VEHICLES, HUGO!
AEROSPACE-YOUTH DAY — STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND VANDENBERG A.F.B.
10-14
I GOT SO INTERESTED IN SHOWING YOU SPACE SLIDES I FORGOT THE TIME! MAYBE YOU'D BETTER CHECK ON IT!
T M COOKE
MEANWHILE...
W-WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE'S MY TRUCK?
WE WERE DOWNED WITH TEAR GAS, MISTER! YOUR TRUCK'S BEEN STOLEN!

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DRIFT MARLO

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THE ROCKET BASE...
WE WAS ONLY A MILE FROM THE AIR BASE, MARLO! SUDDENLY A MASKED JOKER POPS OUT OF THE BUSHES AND LAYS DOWN A TEAR GAS BARRAGE!
I WAS ESCORTING HIS TRUCK SIR! WHEN THE FUMES CLEARED, THE TRUCK AND CARGO HAD BEEN HIJACKED!
IT BEATS ME! WHO'D BE NUTTY ENOUGH TO STEAL TWO MOON GADGETS?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT IT'S UP TO ME TO FIND OUT --AND FAST!

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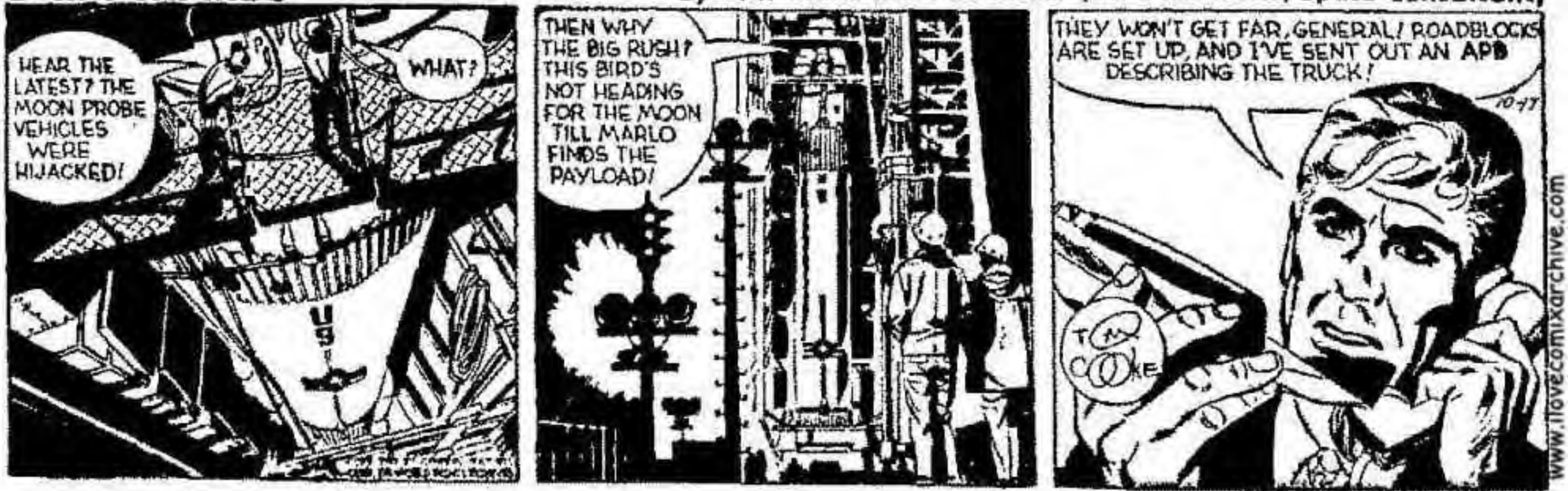
HEAR THE LATEST? THE MOON PROBE VEHICLES WERE HIJACKED!
WHAT?
THEN WHY THE BIG RUSH? THIS BIRD'S NOT HEADING FOR THE MOON TILL MARLO FINDS THE PAYLOAD!
THEY WON'T GET FAR, GENERAL! ROADBLOCKS ARE SET UP, AND I'VE SENT OUT AN APB DESCRIBING THE TRUCK!
10-4!
TM COOKE

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DRIFT MARLO

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WHAT MAKES YOU SUSPECT THE HIJACKING OF THE LUNAR PROBE PAYLOADS IS AN INSIDE JOB, MARLO?
THE SUBJECT KNOWS OUR CRITICAL TIMETABLE, GENERAL! HE ALSO KNOWS IT WILL TAKE MANY WEEKS BEFORE OTHER PROTOTYPES CAN BE READIED FOR LAUNCHING!
TM COOKE
BUT THE MOTIVE?
MY GUESS IS RANSOM!

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DRIFT MARLO
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HI, CLAIRE! NO TIME FOR VISITING! I NEED A PHOTO OF THE KIDNAPPED MOONLET!
DR. BARCUS IS BUSY, BUT YOU CAN GO IN!
SAY, I HEAR YOU'VE BEEN OKAYED FOR ASTRO-TRAINING, DRIFT! YOU'LL BE THE FIRST COP ON THE MOON! CONGRATULATIONS!
Tom Cooke
IF I DON'T NAB THE GUY WHO PIRATED THE PROBE VEHICLES, THEY'LL NEVER LET ME OFF THE GROUND!
PHUT
SIT DOWN, KOLTON!
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DRIFT MARLO

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SORRY TO BUST IN, HUGO! I'D LIKE A PHOTO OF THAT STOLEN MOON VEHICLE TO RUN IN THE PAPERS WITH A DESCRIPTION OF THE TRUCK!
OF COURSE, DRIFT!
YOU KNOW KOLTON GRAVES, TEST ENGINEER! HE'S BACK WITH US AFTER LEAVE OF ABSENCE!
HOW ARE YOU FEELING NOW?
FINE! MEDICOS SAY I'LL BE OKAY IF I AVOID OVERWORK!
AND IF MY PLAN JELLS, I'LL NEVER WORK AGAIN!

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DRIFT MARLO

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IN A CLOSED, PUBLIC GARAGE ALMOST WITHIN SHADOW OF THE AIR BASE
REPAINTING A WHOLE TRUCK IS NOT MY IDEA OF FUN, BUT KOLTON SAYS IT'S NECESSARY AND... WHO'S THAT?
T M COOKE
KOLTON! YOU FRIGHTENED ME!
NOTHING TO FEAR FROM NOW ON, AMANDA! I'VE GOT THE AIR BASE COMPLETELY BAFFLED!

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DRIFT MARLO

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SMART IDEA RENTING THIS OLD GARAGE, AMANDA! WHO'D LOOK FOR STOLEN MOON VEHICLES SO CLOSE TO THE AIR BASE?
NOBODY, I HOPE! I REPAINTED THE TRUCK IN CASE WE DO HAVE TO MOVE THEM IN A HURRY, KOLTON!
T. COOKE
10-23
I STILL THINK HOLDING VITAL SPACE HARDWARE FOR RANSOM IS ABSURD!
WHEN I WANT YOUR OPINION, I'LL ASK FOR IT!

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LET'S CHUCK THE WHOLE SILLY SCHEME, KOLTON! YOU'VE BEEN ILL! YOU MUST AVOID TENSION!
LISTEN, AMANDA, THE MONEY I'LL GET FROM HIJACKING THE LUNAR SPACECRAFT WILL BUY ME YEARS OF RELAXATION!
CLOSED
AND YOU'RE IN TOO DEEP TO BACK OUT NOW! BESIDES YOU'LL GO ALONG BECAUSE IT'S EXCITING, AND YOU LOVE ME!
I WONDER.

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IT'S ALMOST LIKE A KIDNAP RANSOM NOTE, DRIFT!
RETURN OF MOON VEHICLE WILL COST $50,000 WAIT FOR INSTRUCTIO
I FOUND OUT THOSE LETTERS WERE CLIPPED FROM AUTOMOTIVE MANUALS USUALLY FOUND IN GARAGES!
MY MEN ARE CHECKING EVERY ENCLOSED GARAGE IN THIS AREA WHERE THE SPACECRAFT COULD BE HIDDEN!

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I'M BEAT! GUESS I WAS ON SICK LIST TOO LONG! CAN YOU CARRY ON WITHOUT ME?
SURE, KOLTON!
I'VE GOT TO CALL AMANDA!
YOU HEARD ME! DRIFT MARLO'S GETTING WARM! FORGET YOUR BLASTED COCKTAIL PARTY AND MEET ME AT THE GARAGE -- NOW!
TOM COOKE

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SOME VACATION I'M HAVING!
SHUT UP AND HELP LOAD! MARLO'S SNOOPING AROUND ALL PUBLIC GARAGES! WE'VE GOT TO MOVE THIS STUFF TO A SAFER PLACE!

10-28
THAT'S MY JOINT, MARLO! WHEN I WENT BANKRUPT, SOME GAL OFFERED TO LEASE IT FOR STORAGE! I GAVE HER A KEY!
I'LL LOOK AROUND! THAT KEY MAY UNLOCK A PAYLOAD OF TROUBLE FOR HER, MISTER!
CLOSED

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DRIFT MARLO

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FIVE WILL GET YOU TEN YOUR GARAGE IS BEING USED AS THE HIJACKERS' HIDEOUT... WAIT OUTSIDE!
TOM COOKE
WHEW! I'M TIRED, KOLTON!
WE'LL USE THE CRANE TO LOAD THE ASSEMBLED SPACECRAFT -- THEN WE MOVE TO A SAFER PLACE!
SHHH! LISTEN!
CREAK!

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SMITTY'S
MY GARAGE DOOR -- RUINED! DID YOU SEE WHO DROVE THROUGH IT, MARLO?
NO, SMITTY! I WAS TOO LATE!
LUCKILY, THEY DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO GET AWAY WITH BOTH LUNAR VEHICLES!
LATER AT THE AIR BASE...
MEN, MARLO RECOVERED ONE OF THE SPACECRAFT! WE SHOOT FOR THE MOON ON SCHEDULE!
HOORAY!
TOM COOKE

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THANKS TO YOU, DRIFT, NUMBER ONE LUNAR SPACECRAFT WILL BE HEADING FOR A SOFT LANDING ON THE MOON AS SOON AS THE ATLAS-CENTAUR'S READY!
I KNOW, HUGO, BUT I'VE STILL GOT TO FIND THE HIJACKERS...
TOM COOKE
11-2
...AND ALSO THE MISSING BACKUP VEHICLE JUST IN CASE THERE'S AN ABORT!

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EVERYTHING'S A-OKAY, KOLTON! THE BOXES OF COMPONENTS ARE SAFELY HIDDEN AND I DITCHED THE TRUCK!
ON THE BASE
GOOD GAL! THE VALUE OF OUR BACKUP VEHICLE WILL DOUBLE SOON! I'M MAKING SURE THE FIRST LUNAR CRAFT DOESN'T IMPACT THE MOON!
BUT HOW?
QUIET IT'S MARLO!
YOU DIDN'T TELL ME HE WAS SO HANDSOME! I WANT TO MEET HIM!

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I'M AMANDA! KOLTON GRAVES INVITED ME TO THE BASE FOR THE DANCE AT THE OFFICER'S CLUB!
I HOPE YOU BOTH ENJOY IT, AMANDA!
OH, KOLTON HAS TO WORK TONIGHT BUT I'M SURE SOMEBODY WILL TAKE ME--PERHAPS EVEN A SECURITY MAN!
11-8
COOKE
THAT STUPID DAME WILL DO ANYTHING FOR KICKS! WHILE SHE'S PLAYING WITH FIRE, I MAY BE THE ONE WHO GETS BURNED!

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DRIFT MARLO

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DRIFT MARLO HAS RECOVERED ONE OF THE TWO STOLEN PAYLOADS IN TIME FOR THE FIRST ATTEMPT TO SOFT-LAND A SPACECRAFT ON THE MOON--
T MINUS EIGHTY-- MINUTES --AND COUNTING!
MR. MARLO, WHAT HAPPENS IF THE IMPACT VEHICLE MISSES THE MOON AFTER SEPARATING FROM THE ROCKET?
THAT'S NOT MY DEPARTMENT, AMANDA! MY JOB IS TO CAPTURE THE CROOKS WHO STILL HAVE THE BACKUP VEHICLE -- AND THAT WON'T TAKE LONG!
COMIC CLUB
T. COOKE

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DRIFT MARLO

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I'M CURIOUS ABOUT YOUR INTEREST IN THE HIJACKED MOONCRAFT AMANDA?
I COULDN'T CARE LESS/IT'S THE DETECTIVE WHO INTRIGUES ME! CHEERS!
WELL, TIME FOR ME TO SHOVE OFF! THE HOT COUNT-DOWN'S ALREADY STARTED! I'LL SEE YOU AROUND!
I'LL BE AT THE OFFICER'S CLUB DANCE AFTER THE FIRING, DRIFT -- IN CASE YOU'RE INTERESTED!
OFFICERS CLUB DANCE
TOM COOKE

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

YOU NITWIT! I SAW YOU PLAYING CAT AND MOUSE WITH MARLO! YOU WANT TO GET US BOTH IN TROUBLE?
LISTEN, KOLTON STAY OUT OF MY PRIVATE LIFE, OR I'LL BLOW THE WHISTLE ON YOU! AM I COMING IN LOUD AND CLEAR?
TOO LOUD! YOU FORGET, AMANDA, YOU'RE IN THIS DEAL AS DEEP AS I! WE'RE BOTH IN DANGER!
EXCITING, ISN'T IT?

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

MAKING A PLAY FOR MARLO MAY GIVE YOU KICKS, BUT WE'RE PLAYING FOR BIGGER STAKES, AMANDA! ISN'T THAT EXCITING ENOUGH?
I DON'T KNOW! I ONLY KNOW THAT I WAS A FOOL TO GET MIXED UP IN ONE OF YOUR HAREBRAINED SCHEMES!
11-9
T COOKE
T MINUS SIXTY MINUTES --AND HOLDING THE COUNT!
I'M DUE AT THE PAD! KEEP OUT OF TROUBLE! IF THERE'S AN ABORT, THEY'LL PAY ANYTHING FOR THE LUNAR VEHICLE WE'VE HIDDEN!

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DRIFT MARLO

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THE LAUNCH PAD...
WHY IS THE TEST CONDUCTOR HOLDING THE COUNT, HUGO!
WE'LL SOON KNOW, DRIFT! WHAT BRINGS YOU OUT HERE!
I'M MAKING SURE THIS BIRD ISN'T SABOTAGED BEFORE IT GETS OFF THE GROUND!
T M COOKE
WHAT'S UP, KOLTON?
11-10
INSTRUMENT CO-ORDINATOR SAYS THERE'S A BUG! I'VE GOT TO UNSCREW AN INSPECTION PLATE!

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11-11
BUTTON UP THAT PLATE, KOLTON! THEY FOUND THE BUG AT THE BLOCKHOUSE!
T MINUS SIXTY MINUTES--AND COUNTING!
OKAY!
A NEEDLE VALVE PROBABLY GOT HUNG UP IN A CONSOLE! LET'S CLEAR THE PAD!
USA
T COOKE
AND IN THE HOUR THAT FOLLOWS...
T MINUS NINETY SECONDS--AND COUNTING!
COMMAND IN INTERNAL!
TELEMETRY IN LAUNCH CONDITION!
RANGE READY!
ALL GREEN!
TOPPING OFF THE LOX!
ALL SYSTEMS--GO!

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

THE MIGHTY BOOSTER STRAINS AGAINST HOLD-DOWN CLAMPS, BUILDING UP ITS THRUST TO HURL A UNIQUE PAYLOAD TO THE MOON...
T-PLUS EIGHT --NINE --TEN!

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DRIFT MARLO

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AN ELECTRONIC BRAIN DETECTS THE ROCKET'S WOBBLE, ALERTING THE EXHAUST CONES TO CORRECT THE DIRECTION OF THRUST...
I-I FAILED!
WHAT'S WRONG KOLTON? YOU LOOK SICK!
HE PASSED OUT! GET HIM OFF THAT CONSOLE QUICKLY, DRIFT!

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WONDER WHY KOLTON PASSED OUT?
NERVES! YOU FORGET HE'S BEEN ON SICK LEAVE DRIFT!
I HAD THE JITTERS, TOO, HUGO! I KNEW HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS FOR YOU TO GET THE MOONSHIP LAUNCHED ON SCHEDULE.
11-18
NOW MAYBE I CAN CONCENTRATE ON FINDING THE STOLEN BACKUP VEHICLE!
AND THE HIJACKERS, DRIFT!

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

AFTER THE ATLAS BOOSTER HAS BURNED OUT, AND THE LIQUID-OXYGEN-POWERED CENTAUR IS IN LUNAR TRAJECTORY...
I FEEL OKAY NOW, MARLO! I'LL DROP OFF AT THE OFFICER'S CLUB FOR A LITTLE TRANQUILITY! AMANDA WILL BE THERE!
I WOULDN'T SAY SHE'S THE TRANQUILIZING TYPE, KOLTON. BUT EVERY MAN TO HIS OWN POISON!
TOM COOKE

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DRIFT MARLO by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

AMANDA, THE MOON LAB HAS SEPARATED FROM THE SECOND-STAGE BOOSTER!
SO YOUR SABOTAGE EFFORT FAILED!
KOLTON, HOW CAN WE SELL THEM THAT BACKUP VEHICLE NOW!
11-18
RELAX! I'M NOT THROUGH YET!...
"... A LOT OF THINGS CAN HAPPEN TO AN UNMANNED MOON LAB IN TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND MILES!"
T COOKE

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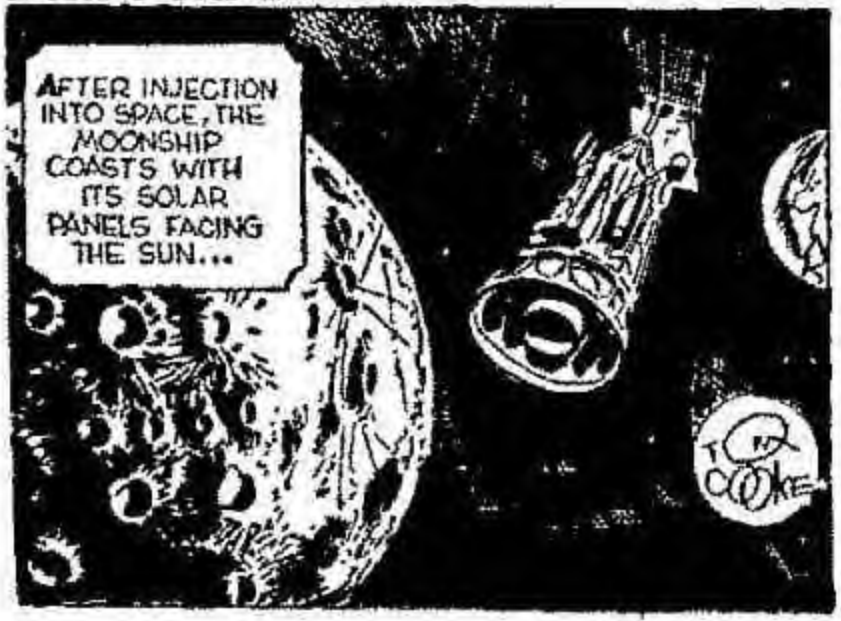
DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)



WILL IT MAKE IT, GEORGE?
I DON'T KNOW! IT WEIGHS OVER A TON!
IT'S GOT FOUR TV CAMERAS, DAD! BOY, WHAT A PICTURE WE'LL SEE!
MOONSHIP IN SPACE
SPACE

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DRIFT MARLO

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DRIFT MARLO

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A PLANT NEAR THE AIR BASE...
WANT A LIFT HOME, WORKING GIRL?
DRIFT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
ROUTINE LEG WORK ON THAT SECOND HIJACKED MOONSHIP, AMANDA!
GET ANYTHING?
ONLY SOME DOPE ON ITS PACKING CRATES -- AND HOW LONG YOU WORKED OVER-TIME THAT NIGHT!
ME!
TOM COOKE

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DRIFT MARLO

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THANKS AWFULLY!
I FOUND OUT YOU LEFT THE PLANT AFTER THE MOONSHIPS WERE HIJACKED ON THIS ROAD! YOU'RE IN THE CLEAR!
TOM COOKE
11-23
SORRY, AMANDA, BUT I'VE GOT TO CHECK OUT EVERYBODY-- EVEN THE PRETTY ONES!
I UNDERSTAND, DRIFT!
WHY IS HE STOPPING HERE, OF ALL PLACES?
SMITTY'S
GARAGE

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I PROMISED TO LEAVE A PLASTIC TOY MISSILE FOR SMITTY TO PICK UP LATER FOR HIS KIDS!
T COOKE
HMM, THIS IS THE GARAGE WHERE KOLTON AND I HID THE MOONSHIPS UNTIL WE COULD MAKE A GETAWAY!
11-24
I WARNED AMANDA TO STAY AWAY FROM MARLO, BUT NO, SHE COULDN'T RESIST PLAYING WITH FIRE!

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DRIFT MARLO

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WAKE UP, SMITTY! THE GAL I PHONED YOU ABOUT IS IN MY CAR! STUDY HER WELL, BUT DON'T LET HER SEE YOU!
IF SHE'S THE WOMAN WHO RENTED YOUR EMPTY GARAGE, THE CASE OF THE MISSING MOONSHIP IS HALF SOLVED!
TOM COOKE

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DRIFT MARLO

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WHAT'S KEEPING DRIFT SO LONG?
AIR BASE HOSPITAL? THIS IS MARLO! SEND AN AMBULANCE TO SMITTY'S GARAGE ON PARK STREET --FAST!
TM COOKE
A MAN HAS BEEN SHOT!

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DRIFT MARLO

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WILL YOU DRIVE MY CAR BACK TO THE AIR BASE, AMANDA?
OF COURSE, DRIFT!... IS SOMEBODY HURT?
IT WAS SMITTY, THE GARAGE OWNER, MY DEAR, SOMEBODY SHOT HIM!
KOLTON! YOU--?
I HAD TO DO IT! HE WAS THE ONLY PERSON WHO COULD IDENTIFY YOU AS ONE OF THE MOONSHIP HIJACKERS!

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DRIFT MARLO

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I NEVER SUSPECTED YOUR ABSURD HIJACKING SCHEME WOULD LEAD TO MURDER, KOLTON! FROM NOW ON, WE'RE THROUGH!
OKAY, BUT IF YOU TIP OFF MARLO WHERE WE'VE HIDDEN THAT SECOND MOONSHIP, YOU'RE THROUGH --PERMANENTLY!
LATER, AT THE AIR BASE...
SMITTY CAN'T TALK NOW, MARLO, BUT HE'S GOING TO PULL THROUGH!
GREAT! FOR SECURITY REASONS, LET'S KEEP HIS GOOD LUCK SECRET!
TOM COOKE

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

MEANWHILE, THE DOWNWARD VELOCITY OF THE ONE-TON LUNAR VEHICLE IS SLOWED FROM 8000 MILES PER HOUR TO LANDING SPEED...
TM COOKE

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

VERNIER ROCKETS STILL BURNING, BUT THE MAIN RETROROCKET IS JETTISONED, DRIFT! IT'S GOING TO BE A HARD LANDING -- TOO HARD!
GOING SOME PLACE, KOLTON?

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WHAT'S YOUR HURRY, KOLTON? DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE IF THE MOONSHIP LANDS OR CRASHES?
TOM COOKE
I NEED A BREATH OF AIR, MARLO! I'M NOT FEELING WELL!
DRIFT! THE PAYLOAD JUST MADE IMPACT ON THE MOON!

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THE VIDICON SCANNER WAS WORKING JUST BEFORE THE PAYLOAD IMPACTED, DRIFT!
PICTURE'S SURE GONE NOW, HUGO!
TELEMETRY SIGNALS ARE COMING THROUGH, DR. BARCUS!

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WE'RE IN LUCK! OUR MOONSHIP DIDN'T CRASH DESPITE THE PREMATURE FIRING OF THE RETROROCKET!
HUGO, WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR KOLTON TO SABOTAGE THE VEHICLE IN FLIGHT WITH THIS RADAR GEAR?
TOM COOKE
IT'S POSSIBLE, DRIFT, BUT WHO COULD PROVE IT?
MAYBE I CAN, DOC!

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DRIFT MARLO

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DRIFT MARLO IS QUESTIONING THE OWNER OF THAT GARAGE WHERE WE FIRST STOWED THE TWO MOONSHIPS, KOLTON!
YES, MY DEAR, SMITTY'S VERY MUCH ALIVE! WHEN HE SPILLS WHO SHOT HIM, WHERE SHALL I FORWARD YOUR MAIL?
TOM COOKE
WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE FAST, AMANDA!
WE!

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

YOU CAN RUN AWAY, KOLTON, BUT NOT I! I'M GOING TO TELL DRIFT WHERE THE SECOND MOONSHIP IS HIDDEN!
TOM COOKE
WHEN I EXPLAIN HOW I WAS DUPED BY AN UNSTABLE, MONEY-MAD ADVENTURER, HE'LL FEEL SORRY FOR ME AND---!

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

YOU'RE NOT SPILLING ANYTHING TO MARLO UNTIL I GET AWAY FROM THIS AIR BASE, AMANDA!
MEANTIME, YOU'LL FIT NICELY IN MY LOCKER!
DRIFT MARLO!

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

GREAT SCOTT, IT'S AMANDA!
DID KOLTON DO THIS?
Y-YES! I GUESS HE RAN AWAY WHEN HE SAW YOU COMING!
DRIFT, YOU SAVED MY LIFE!
OKAY, SO I'LL HATE MYSELF IN THE MORNING! NOW LET'S FIND KOLTON!
TOM COOKE

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

KOLTON SHOT SMITTY SO HE COULDN'T IDENTIFY YOU AS ONE OF THE MOONSHIP HIJACKERS, AMANDA!
I KNOW, DRIFT!
HE'S DANGEROUS! I HOPE YOU CATCH HIM!
HE DIDN'T GO FAR!
TOM COOKE
LET'S GO, BUSTER!
KOLTON!

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DRIFT MARLO

by Tom Cooke and Phil Evans (Dr. I. M. Levitt, Space Consultant)

YOUR MISSING LUNAR VEH'CLE'S IN THAT TRUCK. HUGO 'AMANDA CONFESSED THEY WERE STASHED IN AN OLD FARMHOUSE!
GOOD WORK, DRIFT!
I WONDER WHAT MADE KOLTON AND HIS GIRL THINK THEY COULD GET AWAY WITH HOLDING A VITAL SPACECRAFT FOR RANSOM?
12-14
IT BEATS ME! MAYBE THE PRISON PSYCHIATRISTS CAN FIGURE IT OUT, DOC!

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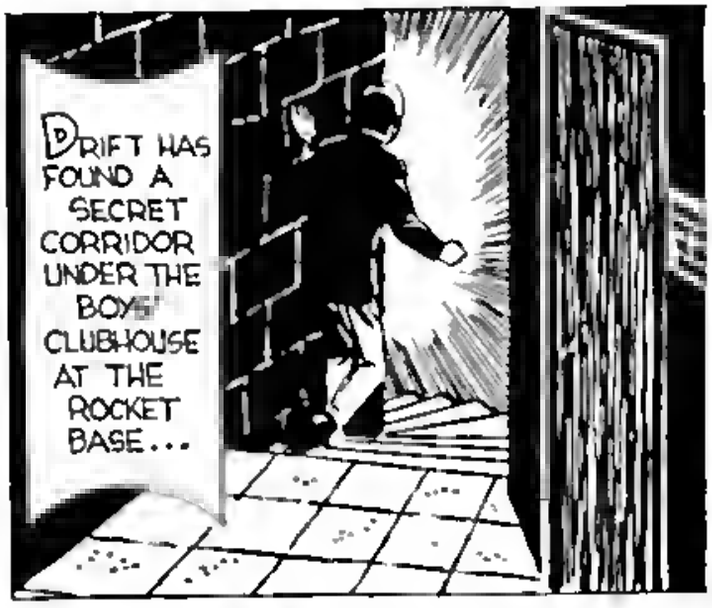
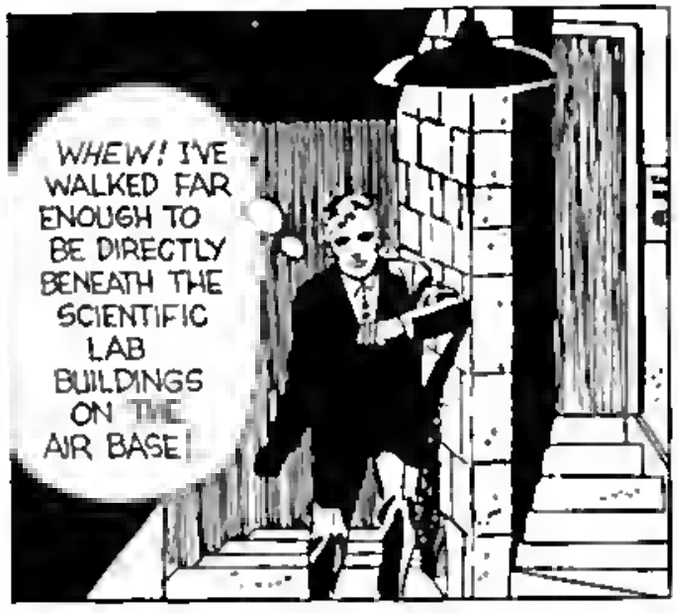
DR. CRAIG'S OFFICE...
IF YOU'RE AN ASTRONAUT, HOW COME YOU'RE ONLY LEARNING HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH NOW?
NEVER HAD TIME BEFORE, JOCKO!
I WAS TOO BUSY MEMORIZING TENS, CALCULUS, ASTROPHYSICS, CELESTIAL MECHANICS AND EINSTEIN'S THEORY!
OOPS! 3/27
YOU SEE, MY VOCAL OUTPUT IS LIMITED! I WOULD PREFER TO PUNCH CARDS OR TAPE TO BE UNDERSTOOD!
WHA-A-T MAN, YOU'RE A REAL KOOK!
GREG! YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE!
YOU'RE TELLING ME! THIS ROOKIE SPACE PILOT IS SO FAR OUT HE'S NOWHERE! THE CLUBHOUSE HAS BEEN BUZZING ALL DAY!
DON'T, I REALLY CAME HERE TO TELL YOU OLD MAN DAVIS WANTING FOR YOU AT THE BOYS' CLUBHOUSE AND --!
ASK HIM TO COME HERE, SON I'LL BE THERE GO HOME, GOOD FELLOW!
3/28
MEANWHILE AT THE CLUBHOUSE...
ALAS! WHAT WOULD A BIG GAME DETECTIVE LIKE MARLO KNOW WITH TH LIKES OF ME?
AMM...WHERE ARE THOSE NOTES OF DR. KRACHT?
I'M CONFUSED, PAT! WHAT IS THIS MAN DOING WHO'S JOINING HERE?
3/29
MR. PIPER RETIRED SCULPTOR WHO CAN BE TRUSTED! HE HAS SECURITY CLEARANCE TO GO SOCIAL JOBS ON THE ROCKET BASE!
YOU SEE, UH-OLD BOY, I WANT A PARTICULAR HEAD MADE FOR YOUR NEW ASSIGNMENT!
THAT DOESN'T COMPUTE! I HAVE NOT BEEN PROGRAMMED FOR ANYTHING NEW!
I CAN ONLY TELL YOU THIS, HITCH! YOU'RE GOING TO IMPERSONATE AN ASTRONUT SCIENTIST HERE WHILE HE'S AWAY ON A VITAL SPACE MISSION!
AS LONG AS CERTAIN PARTIES THINK HE'S STILL DOING RESEARCH IN HIS LAB THEY WON'T BE IN A BIG RUSH TO ABDUCT HIM!
IN OTHER WORDS--- YOU'RE TO BE A DECOY!
HMM! THAT'S STRANGE! WHY DO MY MEMORY BANKS KEEP POPPING UP WITH THE WORD PIGEON??
3/30
MEANWHILE--AT LAUNCH PAD 29...
SO THAT'S DR. KRACHT'S MOON VEHICLE--- EH, MUGG?
SHH! BE CAREFUL OF THAT PASSION OUT LOUD, CLAIRE! THERE ARE TOO MANY HIRED EARS TRYING TO FIND OUT WHAT SECRET PROJECT KRACHT IS WORKING ON!
WHILE AT A LUXURY HOTEL ROCKET BASE...
HMMM!
3/31
DR. KRACHT IS STILL WORKING ALONE IN HIS LABORATORY! WE'LL NEVER GRAB HIM IF HE DOESN'T COME TO THE BASE JUST ONCE!
MEANWHILE---NEXT DOOR...
A DELIGHTFUL PARTY, COUNTESS!
MY PLEASURE, DARLINGS! AU REVOIR!
WHO IS IT?
KNOCK KNOCK!
IT'S NOT THE QUEEN OF SHEBA, YOU IDIOT! OPEN UP! I'VE GOT NEWS!
4/1

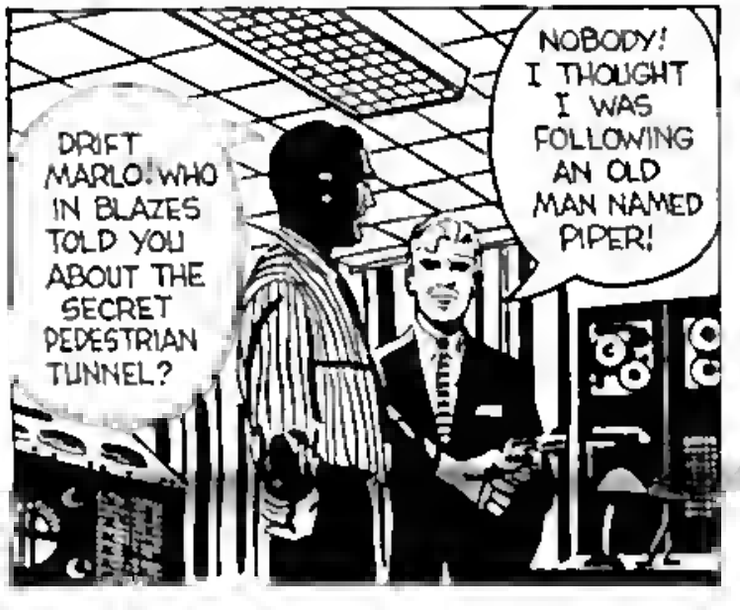

DRIFT HAS FOUND A SECRET CORRIDOR UNDER THE BOYS' CLUBHOUSE AT THE ROCKET BASE...

I DON'T KNOW WHERE THIS LEADS BUT I'M SURE GOING TO FIND OUT!

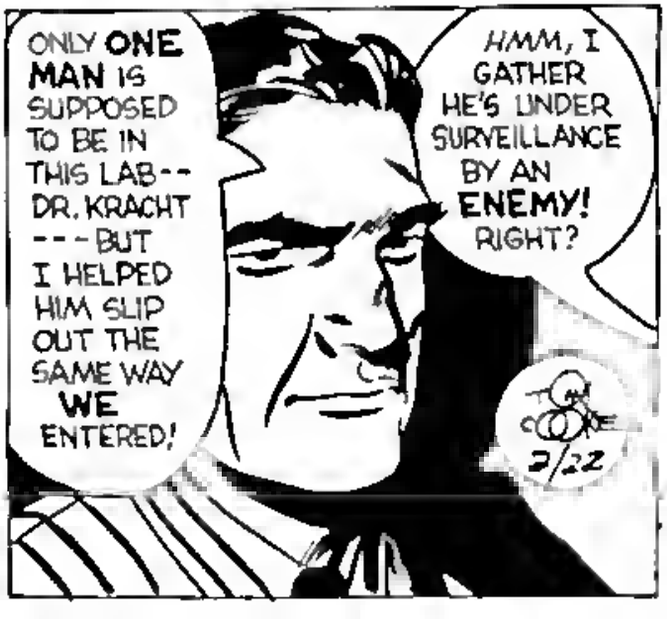
THE LIGHT! SOMEBODY'S IN THE PASSAGEWAY! THEY MUST HAVE FOLLOWED ME!
3/20


WHEW! I'VE WALKED FAR ENOUGH TO BE DIRECTLY BENEATH THE SCIENTIFIC LAB BUILDINGS ON THE AIR BASE!

DON'T MOVE!
3/21


DRIFT MARLO! WHO IN BLAZES TOLD YOU ABOUT THE SECRET PEDESTRIAN TUNNEL?
NOBODY! I THOUGHT I WAS FOLLOWING AN OLD MAN NAMED PIPER!

INSTEAD OF THAT, I TAILED A BLASTED SECURITY AGENT WHAT'S UP?
HEY, GET AWAY FROM THAT WINDOW!


ONLY ONE MAN IS SUPPOSED TO BE IN THIS LAB-- DR. KRACHT --- BUT I HELPED HIM SLIP OUT THE SAME WAY WE ENTERED!
HMM, I GATHER HE'S UNDER SURVEILLANCE BY AN ENEMY! RIGHT?
3/22

NO WONDER THE BRASS SPENT MONEY TO BUILD THE BOYS' CLUBHOUSE! IT SERVES AS A **SECRET EXIT** AT NIGHT FOR HOT-SHOT SCIENTISTS!

ONLY **ONE** SCIENTIST AT THE MOMENT, DRIFT -- DR. KRACHT! I'M STANDING IN FOR HIM AS A DECOY WHILE HE VISITS HIS SICK WIFE!

SINCE YOU'RE SLATED TO BE ON THE KRACHT HUSH-HUSH PROJECT, I'LL START FILLING YOU IN! DRIFT, WE NEED THE ROBOT-- **HITCH BOLTON!**

TM COOKE 3/23

DOESN'T **EVERYBODY!**

MEANWHILE...

HURRY IT UP, MEN! THAT SEGMENT HAS GOT TO BE AT THE LAUNCH SITE BY DAYBREAK!

UNCLE STEVE!

GREG! WHY AREN'T YOU IN BED?

I'M LOOKING FOR DRIFT MARLO! OLD MAN PIPER'S WAITING FOR HIM AT THE SPACE BOYS CLUBHOUSE!

TM COOKE 3/24

TRY DRIFT'S OFFICE -- AND THEN GO HOME! I DON'T WANT YOU PROWLING AROUND THE BASE SO LATE!

HI! I'M GREG WILKINS! HAVE YOU SEEN DRIFT AROUND?

TM COOKE 3/25

HI, JOKER! I'M HITCH BOLTON! NO, I HAVE NOT SCANNED DRIFT!

GEE, YOU TALK FUNNY! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

RECHARGING MY BATTERIES!

I'VE BEEN FILING THE CONTENTS OF ALL THESE BOOKS IN MY MEMORY BANKS! AS DRIFT WOULD SAY- **DULLSVILLE!**

YIPES! AN ASTRONAUT WITHOUT A **COLLEGE EDUCATION!**

A PRISON SHIP? NO WONDER NOBODY EVER CAME BACK HERE TO RESCUE SURVIVORS! WHAT ELSE DO YOU SEE DOWN THERE, HITCH?

Copr. Cooke & Evans TM-World Rights Rsvd.

IT IS NOT WHAT YOU CALL A PRETTY PLACE, DRIFT! IT'S.. ALERT! ALERT! THE FLOOR IS MOVING!

MIKE ARENS 7/31

HERE, TOO! GET OUT OF THERE FAST, HITCH... IT'S A MOONQUAKE!

A MOONQUAKE SUDDENLY DESTROYS THE SILENT TRANQUILITY OF THE LONG DEAD PLANET WHILE DRIFT AND HITCH ARE INSIDE THE ALIEN SPACECRAFT...

MIKE ARENS 8/1

DRIFT... THE STEPS SWAY TOO MUCH FOR A CLUMSY ROBOT!

YOU'VE GOT TO CLIMB UP, HITCH... OR YOU'LL BE TRAPPED!

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THANKS, JOKER!

LET'S GET OUT OF THIS HULK BEFORE THE MOONQUAKE BREAKS IT WIDE OPEN!

MIKE ARENS 8/2

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COME ON, PAL, WE'VE GOT TO REACH THE HATCH!

DRIFT, THE PODS OF THE ALIEN PILOTS ARE SHATTERING!

THEY WERE DOOMED AGES AGO, HITCH! AT LEAST THEY'LL DIE AS FREE MEN!

HURRY, HITCH! WE'VE GOT TO REACH THE NEXT CRATER! HEAVEN ONLY KNOWS WHAT THIS QUAKE IS DOING TO OUR **OWN** VEHICLE!

MIKE ARENS 8/3

HB-1 TO MARLO... EMERGENCY ...SCANNERS BLACKED OUT... CAN'T SEE!

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HOLY COW, ***LOOK...!***

SORRY I DROPPED MY HEAD, JOKER! THERE, NOW I CAN AGAIN VIEW THIS DEBACLE!

MIKE ARENS 8/4

THE GROUND IS SPLITTING OPEN FROM THE MOONQUAKE!

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THE ALIEN SPACECRAFT ...IT'S FALLING INTO THE CREVICE!

WE'VE GOT TO CROSS IT SOMEHOW, HITCH! SANDY IS WAITING IN THE NEXT CRATER!

AMAZING! THE MOONSHIP WAS SWALLOWED UP BY THIS BOTTOMLESS CREVICE!

MIKE ARENS 8/5

MEANWHILE...

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SANDY TO COMMAND MODULE! THE QUAKE IS MAKING OUR **LEM** HOP AROUND LIKE A CRICKET!

AND IN THE ORBITING APOLLO...

WHAT CAN I DO, HUGO? OVER!

FIND DRIFT AND THE ROBOT, SANDY! YOU MUST LIFTOFF **IMMEDIATELY** OR YOUR VEHICLE MAY BE **PERMANENTLY DISABLED!**

DRIFT MARLO

By Dr. I. M. Levitt, Tom Cooke And Phil Evans

A ROCKET BASE IN THE U.S.A.
CAPTAIN, I'M GOING TO MEET COLONEL FRASER! I THINK IT WISE TO KEEP REPORTERS AWAY FROM HIM UNTIL AFTER HE FILES HIS TEST FLIGHT REPORT!
I AGREE, MARLO!
ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?
YEAH! TELL ME WHERE FRASER IS NOW, CAPTAIN!
ONE THOUSAND MILES OUT IN SPACE!
TOM COOKE